

**Southern Regional Advisory Council Meeting  
Cedar Middle School  
Cedar City, UT  
November 12, 2013  
6:00 p.m.**

**1. REVIEW & ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES AND AGENDA**

**MOTION:** To accept minutes and agenda as written.

**VOTE:** Unanimous.

**2. BUCKS, BULLS & OIAL 2014 SEASON DATES & APPLICATION TIMELINE**

**MOTION:** To keep spike elk hunting on the Monroe as it has been and stay with the status quo.

**VOTE:** 7 in favor, 4 opposed

**MOTION:** To accept the remainder of the bucks, bulls & OIAL proposals as presented.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

**3. CWMU MANAGEMENT PLANS AND PERMIT NUMBERS FOR 2014**

**MOTION:** To accept the CWMU management plans and permit numbers as presented.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

**4. LANDOWNER PERMIT NUMBERS FOR 2014**

**MOTION:** To accept the Landowner permit numbers as presented.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

**5. UTAH HUNTER MENTORING PROGRAM (NEW RULE)**

**MOTION:** To accept the hunter mentoring program as presented.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

**6. DEDICATED HUNTER RULE AMENDMENTS**

**MOTION:** To accept the Dedicated Hunter Rule amendments as presented with the exception that applicants are allowed to bank hours from January 1 until the draw results are available.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

## **7. OAK CREEK ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN SHEEP MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**MOTION:** To accept the Oak Creek Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep management plan as presented.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

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| <b>RAC Members Present</b>   | <b>DWR Personnel Present</b>   | <b>Wildlife Board Present</b> | <b>RAC Members Not Present</b> |
|--|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Layne Torgerson<br>Mike Staheli<br>Dale Bagley<br>Mack Morrell<br>Clair Woodbury<br>Dave Black<br>Sam Carpenter<br>Cordell Pearson<br>Sean Kelly<br>Rusty Aiken<br>Mike Worthen<br>Brian Johnson | Kevin Bunnell<br>Lynn Chamberlain<br>Giani Julander<br>Zed Broadhead<br>Josh Carver<br>Teresa Griffin<br>Vance Mumford<br>Justin Shannon<br>Blaine Cox<br>Trail Kreitzer<br>Scott McFarlane<br>Greg Hansen<br>Bryan Christensen<br>Dustin Schaible<br>Jason Nicholes<br>Riley Peck<br>Jason Nicholes | Jake Albrecht<br>Steve Dalton | Harry Barber                   |

Dave Black called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. There were approximately 34 interested parties in attendance in addition to RAC members, members of the Wildlife Board, and Division employees. Dave Black introduced himself and asked RAC members to introduce themselves. Dave Black explained RAC meeting procedures.

Dave Black: Okay. We'd like to get started if we could please. Okay, if we could get started. We'd like to welcome you out tonight to the RAC meeting. My name's Dave Black. I'm the chairman of the RAC. I'm from St. George; I represent the public at-large. Before we introduce the rest of the RAC to you I'd like to recognize the chairman of the Wildlife Board, Jake Albrecht; he's here with us. Wave your hand Jake. We appreciate you coming down and supporting us. We also understand that Steve Dalton will be here tonight; he's also a member of the Wildlife Board. I don't see him here yet; but we appreciate their support. With that let's start down here on the end with Layne and we'll let the RAC introduce themselves.

Layne Torgerson: Layne Torgerson from Richfield; I'm a sportsman's representative.

Mike Staheli: Mike Staheli from Delta; I'm at-large.

Dale Bagley: Dale Bagley from Marysvale, elected official.

Mack Morrell: Mack Morrell, Bicknell, for agriculture.

Clair Woodbury: I'm Clair Woodbury from Hurricane. I represent the public at-large.

Kevin Bunnell: Kevin Bunnell from here in Cedar City. I'm the regional supervisor for the Division of Wildlife and I just act as the executive secretary on this board.

Sam Carpenter: Sam Carpenter from Kanab. I represent the sportsman.

Cordell Pearson: Cordell Pearson from Circleville. I represent at-large.

Sean Kelly: Sean Kelly from Fillmore. I represent the Forest Service.

Rusty Aiken: Rusty Aiken from Cedar City; agriculture.

Mike Worthen: Mike Worthen, Cedar City, public at-large.

Brian Johnson: Brian Johnson, Enoch and non-consumptive.

### **Review and Acceptance of Agenda and Minutes (action)**

Dave Black: Thank you. Our first action item tonight is to review the minutes and accept the agenda. Do we have a motion from the RAC to accept the minutes and the agenda?

Mike Worthen: I so move.

Dave Black: Okay. We have a motion by Mike. And a second by Rusty. All in favor? That's unanimous.

**Mike Worthen made a motion to accept the agenda and minutes from last month's meeting as presented Rusty Aiken seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Dave Black: Okay, item number three will be an informational update.

### **Wildlife Board Update: -Dave Black, Chairman**

Dave Black: I had the opportunity to attend the Wildlife Board meeting this last week. And I wanted to review their motions and what they did with our recommendations as they went to the Wildlife Board.

- If you recall last time we talked about the fishing guidebook. We had made a motion to allow a three-day possession limit and to remove the preserved

fish from the total possession limit. That, there was quite a bit of discussion and they considered our motion. And what they decided to do is that they will put on the questionnaire this coming year a question regarding the three-day possession limit and also addressing the preserved fish. And so it's probably going to be another year before they take action on that but there will be a questionnaire that goes out to address that with the public. We also made a motion that on the next survey that goes out they add a question regarding the taking of catch and kill species by spear-fisherman and they approved that motion so that will be on the questionnaire. Also as the Southern RAC we included a motion that with the next survey there be a question regarding the reinstating of the eight fish limit statewide. And that was approved unanimous as far as it will be on the questionnaire for next year. So all of four of those items will be on the questionnaire and we'll be able to, they'll come before the RAC again next year. Then with that we made a motion to accept the remainder of the fish guide and the rule as presented and the Wildlife Board also approved that.

- Now one other item that came up was we had a motion to create an action item for the Board to address the theft of trail cameras to include wildlife related penalties. And what they are going to do with that is they're going to turn that over to the law enforcement for research and hopefully then we will get a presentation or a response back on that. But there was no action taken with that item.

Dave Black: We'll turn the time over to Kevin for an update now.

### **Regional Update:**

#### **-Kevin Bunnell, Regional Supervisor**

Kevin Bunnell: Thanks Dave. One other thing before I move on to a regional update in relation to the Wildlife Board that's of particular interest to this RAC; you'll remember oh probably about a year ago at this time the members of this RAC asked us to look into seeing if we can get Duck Creek and the little lakes that are up around Duck Creek open to winter fishing. And that was put on the action log for the Board. We reported back to the Board on that, at this last Board meeting. We do have a solution to that. We've talked with Kane County and the Kane County sheriff, along with UDOT. What they're going to do is UDOT is going to post some signs along the highway there making it clear that you can't park along the highway. The only reason it was ever closed, I guess I should start there, was because of safety concerns and people parking along the road there in the winter and the issues that they had with snowplows and other things. So now they're going to post some signs making it clear that you can't park along the highway. They are going to push a couple of small parking lots. And Kane County and the Kane County sheriff will patrol that a little bit to make sure that people aren't parking along the road. Unfortunately it will still be a year from now before that's actually opened in the guide book but I anticipate that we'll be able to do that so that in the 2015 fishing season we'll be able to have Duck Creek and those, the other little lakes, I forget the name of the other one up there, open to fishing during the winter because we've been able to resolve the issue of parking.

- As far as a regional update, there's a lot going on. I'm going to take a minute and brag about my employees a little bit as well. First thing I told you about Minersville and the repairs there on the dam over the last several months.

Those were completed probably today. The Division put \$30,000.00 into using divers to repair that dam rather than drain the reservoir completely so that we could preserve the fishery. That was a big win. It would have taken us several years to rebuild that fishery if we would have had to drain it. So the sportsman stepped up and the Division dug deep and found some money and we were able to get that done. And the ram on that control structure for that dam was went in yesterday and today with divers doing all the work.

- The other thing out of our aquatics program is just keep your eyes open. The Fish Lake and Boulder Mountain management plan meeting will be beginning shortly and there will be some notices going out there so if you have an interest in how we manage the fisheries on Boulder Mountain and Fish Lake you'll want to get involved with that.
- Our wildlife section has been really busy over the last month or so. First off I think we had a very successful deer hunt this year compared to seasons past. We had a lot of young three and four point bucks, and body condition on the deer that were coming to our check stations this year was really good. All the rain that we had last summer has really allowed those deer to go into winter in really good shape and so they should do just fine this winter.
- You've probably seen the coverage of our sheep transplants. We moved 49 sheep from Nevada into some canyons just off of Lake Powell in the Escalante unit. That was a very complicated undertaking. Logistically it included helicopters on both ends and boats and everything else. We actually had to fly the sheep in to get them into the area because it's very remote. You know, just kind of a quick story with that, the last two sheep that when they opened the boxes to release them, instead of running up the canyon like the other 47 had done before them, they decided to turn around and run backwards and they actually jumped into Lake Powell. And our guys, our guys that were there had been flown in so they didn't have a boat or any way to go help them so they actually found a guy that was out there fishing, I assume, and essentially commandeered his boat, and went and rescued, they were able to pull one of the sheep that was swimming out of the water, get it in the boat and take it back over to the area. The other sheep made it across and pulled itself out. But, you know, our guys will go along ways, especially when it come to sheep because of the amount of time and effort they put into it. The other thing related to bighorn sheep, our flights have begun in doing our surveys and classifying sheep. They've been flying the Zion unit the last couple of days. There's good and bad news there. The good news is there's a lot of sheep in the Zion unit. The bad news is there's a lot of sheep in the Zion unit. And when sheep densities get high we get very concerned because sheep are prone to start wandering at that point which puts it at a high risk to come in contact with domestic sheep which is in some cases is a very bad thing for wild sheep because they bring back disease. The primary issue in actually in Zion National Park. We're hoping, we're meeting to convince the park to let us capture some sheep out of the park this year. We'll be meeting with them the end of this month. But it is far from a done deal at this point but we'll continue to work hard on that.
- Deer classifications will be starting here immediately and go over the next five

to six weeks.

- Our youth pheasant hunt that happened this last weekend out at the Pahavant WMA was a really well done event. We appreciate the sportsman, especially Sportsman For Fish And Wildlife for partnering with us there and allowing us to release a bunch of pheasants and give 100 kids a really neat experience and hopefully develop a life long passion for hunting. Also with pheasants, if you haven't seen the news, we are releasing over 11,000 pheasants throughout the state this year that the Division's done. They'll come in waves. The first two waves are done. The last one will be this Friday at several of our WMAs. And you can go on the website and find out where those are. There will be birds released Friday night and we're hoping that people go to take advantage of those over the weekend. And actually it's been, the reports I've been given, the hunting on those WMAs where the birds have been released has remained good throughout the week after those releases. So, especially if you have any young ones around your house or grandkids, a good opportunity to get them excited about hunting.
- We will be doing some additional fawn collaring on the Monroe and the Pine Valley studies coming up in December. So if, especially the RAC members, or really anybody else, that's interested in getting involved with that let us know and we can provide some opportunities to get some hands on experience.
- And then in January it will continue with deer transplants and capturing sheep in the Zion unit. Moving sheep onto the Oak Creek unit, assuming that things go as they have in the last two RACs and the Wildlife Board coming up with that item that we'll talk about tonight.
- And then our habitat section, this is the time of year when they're extremely busy putting seed on the ground and doing all the projects; and then they start praying for snow so that next spring everything greens up well. The government shutdown put a lot of pressure on our habitat folks because the partners in the BLM and the Forest Service were not available right at the time when we were trucking seed all over the state and doing all sorts of things. So our habitat section has been burning the candle at both ends a little bit but they've managed to keep their heads above water.
- And then lastly our law enforcement guys have, I'll read it the way Scott put it here, that they're licking their wounds after an insane September and October. We're short several conservation officers in the region right now and so the other guys have had to fill in. They've done (unintelligible) work in making sure that everything's getting covered but they've put in a lot of long hours and a lot of long days. And so we're hoping that they can get a little bit of a respite now.

Kevin Bunnell: With that, um, I think I'll send it back to you Dave.

Dave Black: Thank you Kevin. As you look at the agenda you can see we have quite a few items on the agenda this evening. So just before we get started I just want to run through the meeting order. First on each action item we'll have a presentation and then there will be an opportunity for questions from the RAC, and then questions from the public. And just remember at this time that these are just questions.

And if you have comments then you'll have an opportunity to comment but in order to do so you need to get a yellow card, fill that out, give it to one of the DWR representatives, they'll bring that up to us. And then we'll move into the comment section where there will be comments from the RAC and also comments from the public. And so with that we'll move into our first action item, which is number five, Bucks, Bulls, and that's with Justin.

**Bucks, Bulls & OIAL 2014 Season Dates & Application Timeline (action) 17:27 to 30:04 of 3:26:46**  
**-Justin Shannon, Wildlife Program Coordinator**  
(See attachment 1)

**Questions from the RAC:**

Dave Black: Thank you Justin. Do we have any questions from the RAC? Okay, hang on. Go ahead. Cordell, go ahead.

Cordell Pearson: My question is on the Monroe unit. When it says the region met with sportsmen in October. Who were the sportsman that were chosen to be at that meeting? Was that SFW or was it a particular club or what was it? And how come nobody else knew anything about it?

Justin Shannon: SFW was certainly there. You know I didn't personally attend the meeting. Teresa, do you want to, Vance do you want to speak to that? Who was invited and notice and different things?

Vance Mumford: Yeah, what we did is we contacted most of the members of the Monroe elk committee that have met in previous years. And those that attended, and including some sportsman, the word got around among the sportsman that we were having a meeting. But we had RAC members, Board members, SFW, Mule Deer Foundation, Rocky Mountain Foundation, livestock producer, the Monroe Landowner Association, Sevier County commission, and probably a dozen or so or more concerned sportsman there.

Dave Black: Did you get that question an answer? Okay. Thank you. Clair, go ahead.

Clair Woodbury: Is there a problem with too many spikes being killed on that unit? Have you done a study on that or is this just a knee jerk reaction to their wants?

Justin Shannon: It's an interesting question because I think if you look at the Monroe and you solely focused on the Monroe, yeah, we're probably taking a disproportionate amount of spikes there. But if you look at the complex, the ten thousand elk that interchange between the four units we're right in line with other parts of the state, other big populations like the Manti or other portions like that, percent wise. And so I guess the way to answer that question is it is all how you want to look at it scale wise. If you look just at the Monroe, yeah there are a lot of spikes being killed. So that's probably the best way to answer that.

Clair Woodbury: I have a follow up question to that. Does that translate into fewer mature bulls on that unit or is it taken into account that those other units or those other elk that migrate in take their place?

Justin Shannon: Yeah, potentially. And I guess that's why we want to be cautious with it. That's why we want to have a conservative recommendation right now to do away with the any weapon portion until we

can learn a little bit more about that unit. We do have some collar data that indicated that certainly elk move on to that unit and we're having internal discussions about collaring elk on all those units to learn a little bit more about it. But it has the potential to do what you're saying, that you could potentially lose some older bulls if, solely, again if you looked at that unit. I think the complex as a whole you're probably in pretty good shape. But on that unit, yeah you would lose quality taking that many spikes.

Clair Woodbury: Shouldn't we have some data before we make this drastic of a move where all of those hunters would have to go to units surrounding and put extra pressure on the Pahavant, the Beaver, the Plateau?

Justin Shannon: Yeah, the data that we do have shows that we're killing 165 spikes off of a unit that has 1,400 wintering elk. And so that's the data that we're citing that causes us some concern. Migrational data on elk is difficult, it's expensive, things like that; so certainly we'd love an opportunity to get more but this is again, a middle of the road recommendation to try to be receptive to what the public's asking and seeing and certain things like that and still maintain opportunity for spike hunters.

Clair Woodbury: So you say 165 spikes are being killed on that Monroe unit, is that what you're saying?

Justin Shannon: Yeah, yeah. Well we have the harvest data but now the, I mean we don't have the whole picture yet.

Kevin Bunnell: Vance, why don't you come up and address the data on the Monroe a little bit in a little more detail.

Vance Mumford: Sure. I think uh, let me show you a few graphs that might help out. We've had an elk hunt since 2009 on Monroe, so four years. That fifth graph there, the columns that you see is the average. So starting in 2009, the first elk hunt. So we're averaging 137 spikes. And of course that's 2012 was the highest number of harvest that we've had. There's just an example of how many hunters are hunting those units; the most important number being the any weapon type hunt. So, in 2012 we had 755 any weapon spike hunters on the unit. And then if we want to look at the average number of, say, the any weapon hunt, 681. And then if you continue down that column you will see the archery hunt numbers and the muzzle hunt numbers on average. So, we're averaging just under 1,000 total hunters if you combine all the units. As you can see a pretty good success rate on the rifle spike hunt; and on the rifle hunt we did harvest, well the average was 124 spikes just on the rifle hunt. Um, here, this just shows the, our wintering population. And as you can see the Monroe, the top unit, our winter population estimate was 1,400 animals. We flew that unit last year; in fact all these units that you see listed below we flew. So if you look at say the Monroe and the Dutton, next to each other, the Dutton has quite a bit of, you know, a larger wintering population and of course that includes some, quite a few Monroe elk. But we only harvested 70 spikes on that unit versus 165 on the Monroe. You know as you can see there's quite a few, we just harvest a higher proportion of spikes, probably between 60 and 80 percent of the spikes are harvested annually on Monroe compared with only 35-40 percent on the adjoining units. And most of that is due to access probably.

Clair Woodbury: What number are you looking to survive a post hunt, survival rate on the spikes to keep the big bulls in the numbers we want?

Vance Mumford: Yeah, good question. What you do is you look at how many spikes or how many

calves are born in the population every year and then you take, you know, divide that in half. Did I say calves or spikes? You look at the number of calves that are produced every year with the population that you have, divide that in half and you have the yearling bulls. You carry that over to next year, you subtract a percentage for natural mortality and things like that, so it tells you about how many spikes are available, that should be available on that unit. Then you look at the harvest numbers and then you get an approximate percent of the harvest.

Clair Woodbury: The question I was asking, what is goal that you would like to see on survival rate on the spikes after the hunt?

Vance Mumford: I don't know if we, that's not really part of the plan as far as that goes. But what we do want to do is have adequate survival to produce an adequate number of large bulls that are recruited into the population for any bull hunters.

Clair Woodbury: Right. And that was my question, how many do we need to keep that, the big bulls numbers up on the Monroe? And that's kind of nebulous?

Vance Mumford: Yeah, a little bit nebulous. You know what we do know is that we are harvesting more, a higher percentage on Monroe, fewer on the adjoining units.

Kevin Bunnell: Vance, I think you could answer that if you walk through your, your two surveys, the 2009 and 2012 or whatever they are.

Vance Mumford: Right here. Okay, good. So if we look at 2009, the aerial survey that we completed, the 2009 survey was per spike hunt, so before we had that first spike hunt. And there you see the actual count and the count of antlerless. And the most important thing to look at here is not necessarily the number of spikes that we counted or big bulls that we counted but really the ratio per hundred antlerless animals. And that gives us, because sightability issues come into play when you're counting big bulls in the air; they're just very hard to count, or bulls in general. And so we look at the percent, or the ratio of bull to cow. So if we look at the yearling bull surveys, in 2009 we had 11, basically spike bulls, per 100 antlerless. And then in our survey this last winter we only had 3.4, which shows that we harvested a pretty good, a pretty large percentage of our spikes. And we can carry that on down, we look at the branched bull, which are basically our 2.5 year-old bulls. We went from 4.2 per hundred antlerless to 2.1, so roughly about half there. And then if we look at our mature bull we went from 15.6 per hundred antlerless down to about 9.2. So I think we have, you know I think we have affected the bull segment of that population, not in an emergency way but it is significant.

Clair Woodbury: Yeah, if I remember right part of the reason we went statewide or mostly statewide on this spike hunt was to decrease the number of bulls to get more in line with a natural population I guess you can say. And I just wondered if it, maybe that's what that graph is showing.

Vance Mumford: Yeah, yeah. And if I could just show you one other thing that might, oh I'm missing one graph on here. I was just going to show you; historically Monroe has been managed as a limited entry only unit until 2009. So we had a lot of bulls and then in the early 2000's we lowered that age objective down to 5 and 6. So we really raised our any bull permits significantly, up over 100 permits for several years. And then we raised our objective back up to 7.5 to 8 year-old bulls, just a couple of years ago. And in response to that we've cut our big bull tags significantly in anticipation of the effects of a

spike bull hunt and also reflecting the high bull harvest from several years previous to that. So you will see a big hump in the early 2000's with permit numbers.

Clair Woodbury: Thank you.

Dave Black: We still have some more questions.

Dale Bagley: Would you say that the effects of that, the lack or the less number of mature bulls would be more of an effect of increased tags from 07, 08, and 09 than the spike hunt?

Vance Mumford: You know that's a good questions, our spike hunts again started in 2009 so those bulls would be about approximately five and a half years old this year. And so really if you're looking at the really large bull population, you know the six plus year-old bulls, that effect is not really going to be seen too much until the next year or two. So probably the biggest, yeah the biggest thing that affected the number of big bulls available to hunters in the last, the past several years was because of those high permit numbers in that time period.

Dale Bagley: Okay. Then one more question. We're managing Dutton, I believe, 5.5 to 6.5 year age class, same with Fish Lake. All those units are kind of intertwined. You've had dramatic increases on both of those units. Do you think that's having an effect on the number of bulls? I mean the spike hunt's getting a bad rap for a combination of several things?

Vance Mumford: Um I guess I don't quite understand the question. But you're right the Dutton, the wintering herd on the Dutton is quite high. And but I think having a high elk numbers on adjoining units because of the interaction, the movement of the elk between units, I don't think that would hurt the bulls on Monroe.

Dale Bagley: Well you have increased the number of permits on those other units at the same time that you basically started the spike hunt just because the age classifications have changed. On Fish Lake they've increased significantly in the last 4 years, 5 years, which is the same time frame as the spike.

Vance Mumford: Yeah, I understand that question. You know, again, like we've talked about there is a lot of movement of elk in between those. And what we do on one unit can definitely affect you know, what happens on another unit. And so, but to actually be able to quantify that and say this has affected that, I really can't speak to that.

Dave Black: Okay, go ahead.

Mack Morrell: On the spike bull on the Monroe, you made a statement that the reason they're taken more spikes is because of the access. Is that correct?

Vance Mumford: Yeah. There are just a lot of roads on Monroe. There are not a lot of private ground refuge areas and it's a great place for hunters to go. And so it's just popular. It gets a lot of pressure and you harvest more yearlings.

Mack Morrell: A lot of roads for access, but the other units, the Dutton and Fishlake and Boulder, it's a little harder to hunt. So I don't know why that you would want to, since all those four units are kind of

combined anyway with elk, why would you want to take the spike off of the Monroe (recording error) hunting spikes. Maybe you ought to leave the number of permits or something there on the Monroe and not just take everything out.

Vance Mumford: Yeah. You know I think that's kind of what we were looking at a compromise by keeping the muzzle loader hunt available there and the archery hunt available there for spikes, which would probably result in, you know, 40 to 50- spikes being harvested on Monroe, kind of a half way in between recommendation.

Dave Black: Sam, go ahead.

Sam Carpenter: Yeah, Vance, I've hunted spikes for many many years and I don't believe I've ever had anybody call or ask if I've killed a spike. Where do you get these numbers, 165 elk on the Monroe? Have they started doing surveys or do we just kind of? Where does that come from?

Vance Mumford: Yeah, that's our most important tool, is harvest surveys. And they call a certain percentage of the hunters annually and ask them where they hunted, where they harvested, and that is where we generate these harvest.

Sam Carpenter: So you have a formula that you derive from the information that you get to come up with 165 or did you talk to 165 people that actually killed a spike on the Monroe?

Justin Shannon: Yeah. We have, I believe in Salt Lake we have those numbers on how many we actually talked to to generate this data, what that percentage is I don't know. It's about 25 percent on each unit and so we're talking to one in four hunters. And so then the, you know it's projected out, so probably 41 guys said yeah, I killed a spike on the Monroe and a lot of that's projected at that point.

Dave Black: Brian, do you have a question?

Brian Johnson: Are you sure? We're gonna be here a while. I don't even know where to start with this. We have a unit called the Monroe and it's hooked up with three other units that are really hard to hunt. And the Monroe is the easiest to hunt and the Monroe has the highest age objective? I just want to make sure I'm catching that right.

Justin Shannon: Yeah, you're right. It's 7.5 to 8- year-old bulls.,

Brian Johnson: So we've got the highest age objective, I just want to make sure that we're all on the same page here. On the easiest unit to hunt, when it . . . okay, if that's what we're doing that's what we're doing. That's part of the elk plan. This spike hunt is part of the elk plan. I'm just wondering why we're mixing the bag up so much. And it sounds like it's 20 guys from Monroe that got mad. Am I wrong? Because there are 1,000 guys that hunt and we had 20 guys on a committee. So you're the guy that was in charge of the meeting, what have we got?

Vance Mumford: Yeah, so no it's been a concern actually from day one, that was the big question I think when the Wildlife Board considered and the RAC back in 09 or 08 when they made those recommendations. And we did anticipate a higher rate of harvest on these spikes. And it's actually been a very a common topic the last several years when we started seeing the total number of spikes and the

total number of hunters that are hunting the Monroe unit. And so it's definitely not just those people that were at that meeting. And that's not to say that there isn't people that like the spike hunt because there is.

Brian Johnson: There are a lot of people that like the spike hunt.

Vance Mumford: Exactly. And so but those that came to the meeting and the sportsman's groups that were there, that was the consensus, the direction that they wanted to go; so our recommendation reflected that.

Kevin Bunnell: Brian, let me respond to that a little bit. The spike hunt in general has been a really great tool for us. And um, you know Clair mentioned earlier, you know on some of the units like the San Juan where a while ago we had a one to one bull to cow ratio, we are trying to get a more healthy situation with our elk populations. That's never been the case on the Monroe in terms of having as many bulls as we do cows. When you look at that slide, the one that puts this into perspective to me, is you look at the Monroe with a population estimate of 1,400 and we killed 165 spikes. Now you look at the Fishlake with 5,100 and we killed less, fewer spikes. So it's a combination of yeah, there was a concern that was raised but then also we have data that supports the concern. And so that's why we made the recommendation.

Brian Johnson: I get it. I'm confused why we have the highest age class.

Kevin Bunnell: Well and that's an issue that's going to have to be dealt with. Or it will certainly be discussed the next time the elk plan is done. And that's why we made this as a two-year recommendation because in that two-year period the elk plan will be revisited. And I don't know where it's going to end up at that point.

Dave Black: Mike, did you have a question?

Mike Worthen: Brian hit on what I was going to ask one of them. But the other part I guess is a bigger picture part that I'm a little concerned with. We've got some of these bigger class bull units such as the West Desert and Panguitch Lake, where we've got some good bulls coming out of there. And now 4 years down the road we're seeing in this unit that the spike is impacting those, that bull unit, or them bull animals. Do we, are we monitoring those other units to see what impact they're having or are we going to go down the road in another year and say, oh we don't have the production or the survivability of those spikes so we're going to have to shut this down for two years?

Justin Shannon: Yeah, I that, I mean certainly that's a concern we have with doing this because then, with a recommendation going forward like this it has the potential to open up that door to where guys can say, well in my back yard I don't like the quality or the size or the number of bulls, let's do away with the spike hunt. For me probably the best way to answer that is, is internally we really struggled with this recommendation. And what you'll find is no recommendation is perfect; it's just not the case. And with this there's trade offs. And the trade off is with doing away with this, you're right, there's going to be several hundred any weapon hunters that won't be able to hunt or potentially harvest on the any weapon portion of that hunt. That's one of the things that the recommendation has on, you know if the recommendation is a pendulum and you want to look at that as a loss of opportunity there's no denying that, that's what the data suggests. And so you're right. On the flip side though what we're trying to do is have a unit that is 7.5 to 8-year-old bulls. And so the way that we've got to do that is to preserve some

bulls. And I know you could say well couldn't you just cut the tags on the back end? And we could. We could have a unit with 15 to 20 tags and that would be it. So we're earnestly trying to seek a balance between the opportunity of allowing spike hunters, and that's why we kept the archery and the muzzleloader, with trying to manage to a quality unit. And that's where we are at with it. Your concerns are valid.

Dave Black: Down here, Mack?

Sean Kelly: Justin or Vance, I was just kind of curious. Given that we've been harvesting spikes on Monroe since 2009 and we still haven't really, it's not enough time to figure out what affect that's having on the older bulls, is two years going to be enough to see what affect this has on?

Justin Shannon: Yeah. Probably not, not to look at the spike harvest. I mean we will have a couple more years worth of data. Right now the bulls that would have been killed as spikes in 2009 are 4.5 to 5.5. So that would put it to 6.5 to 7.5, so yeah, give us a little bit. But I think what the two years allows us to do as an agency and working with the public is to say, should this unit be managed at a broader scale? Because right now it's a section of a migratory herd. The other thing that we can look at is age objectives. Is there, if we really have that big of a lack of alignment between having a unit that everybody can go to and there's a lot of access and we can kill 165 spikes on it, should units like that be managed for 7.5 to 8-year-old elk. I think those are really valid questions. And then if we are able to put a study together and look at some of the collaring data, at least we will be able to say, hey here's what the movement patterns are. And that's going to take some time to put together. And I don't know if in one or two years we'll have all that but we could get some preliminary data. So that's what we're really trying to gain out of this recommendation being two years before the next statewide plan. But as far as the spikes, the spike hunting that we've had over the last four or five years those data aren't reflected really because we've been managing for a higher aged bull than that.

Dave Black: I know I had some questions at this end, Mack.

Mack Morrell: What would be the effect of leaving, having it status quo for 2 years and then address it then?

Justin Shannon: It's certainly an option. And if the RAC wants to vote that way, and after hearing public comment and hearing our recommendation that's your, and that's what the public process is all about. All the agency was trying to do was find that middle ground. There's some serious concerns about lack of quality. Our own data suggests we're taking a disproportionate amount of spikes on the unit. But we are sensitive to losing all that spike harvest as well. So the effects would be in two years we can, well actually about a year and a half from now we can convene an elk committee and talk about this dynamic down here. In the mean time we'll probably continue to kill a disproportionate amount of spikes on the Monroe.

Mack Morrell: No, but don't some of these other spikes migrate there, back and forth?

Justin Shannon: Certainly, yeah. And that was my point earlier. If you look at the entire complex, we may be in good shape. We're probably similar to other units. If you only focus the data on the Monroe it doesn't look promising.

Dave Black: Mike.

Mike Staheli: I had a question. Wasn't the Monroe one of the few units that was under objective on population? I remember talking about this a year or two ago and that's why we started discussing eliminating the spike bull hunt and maybe some cow hunts because it is below objective, right population?

Justin Shannon: In the winter count, yeah. I think in the summer it's going to hold more than 1,400 elk. And those elk migrate off. So winter count, yeah it's below objective. Summer, we're probably having more than 1,800 elk there. Again, I mean that just magnifies the dynamic we have with a migratory population and trying to manage unit by unit within a . . .

Dave Black: Do we have any more questions from the RAC? Okay, Rusty.

Rusty Aiken: Uh, this has been brought up over the years. Utah is one of the only states that hunt any weapon when the elk is in the rut. Is there any movement or idea of trying to change that up a little bit somehow, maybe rotation or something? I know it's really tough to do it right cold turkey but um?

Justin Shannon: I know three years ago when we had the statewide elk committee, there were conversations about that on that committee. And this was the hunt structure that they wanted to go with. I think one of the dynamics is with archery, muzzleloader and rifle hunters, they all want a chunk as close to that rut as possible. And so that's where that committee landed with it. I think it's worth having the conversation as far as the Division coming forth with the recommendation within the next two years. I wouldn't see that likely. I think that's better discussed when we have that committee, when we have the plan to open up and say what do we feel good about, both the Division, and the public, and the sportsman on hunting elk near the rut or in the rut and setting that framework there. I think that's a better timeframe and avenue to do that. But there are strong feelings. I've talked to a lot of guys that feel like we should and I've talked to a lot of guys that feel like we shouldn't. So it's probably best to get everyone involved.

Dave Black: Any more questions from the RAC? Brian.

Brian Johnson: On this Sanpete county elk. Is there a reason why they're taking that away?

Justin Shannon: Um, biologically, probably not. We kill probably less than 10 elk, 10 bulls every year. The issue that we have there is there's been a lot of conversation about the Manti is a limited entry unit and it's hard to draw that permit. And there's some pretty good quality there. And the central region, not just this last year but the last few years, have got a lot of calls and people in the field saying you know I'm waiting trying to draw this unit and it's a limited entry and then you turn around and let guys go and buy these permits over the counter and come in and potentially kill one of these bulls. And so there's not good alignment there.

Brian Johnson: So let me get this straight. There are people that are upset because someone else can buy a tag and they can buy the same tag but they're upset.

Justin Shannon: Essentially.

Brian Johnson: Awesome.

Justin Shannon: The major difference would be, but not everyone is an archer and that's what it is.

Brian Johnson: And I get that. I just want to make sure. We're killing less than 10 elk.

Justin Shannon: That's right.

Brian Johnson: Okay.

Justin Shannon: Yeah. Not every recommendation is biological in nature. And I think that we need to be able to admit when it isn't, and this isn't.

Brian Johnson: Okay. One more and I hate to keep talking. I'm a sorry guy. Anyways, recommend that the Wasatch, Box Elder, Lone Peak and Timpanogos for the goats all get combined? My concern, I'm just looking at that, you're saying that they're declining in certain areas? Aren't the hunters just going to go where the most big fluffy goats are and hunt them there? Because if I had that tag I would just go on the area where the most goats were at.

Justin Shannon: Yeah, and no, you're spot on with that. The problem is when we've done these flights, this summer and last summer, a lot of these they're crossing boundaries. A lot of these mountain goats are actually leaving the Box Elder, they're leaving Lone Peak, and Timp is growing rapidly. And we think it's due to migration. And so what we didn't want to do was issue a few permits, you know, a hand full of permits to these guys and they get up there and all the goats have crossed boundaries. And so what it made more sense to do is say it's all the same population of goats, let's have it be all one boundary.

Brian Johnson: Okay. So you're saying that those are all essentially the same . . .

Justin Shannon: They're neighboring populations.

Brian Johnson: Yeah, I get that. So one other question, we manage these goats for one hundred percent success rate.

Justin Shannon: Yeah, close, yeah.

Brian Johnson: So why aren't we hunting them a little bit later when you can actually get a goat with some hair? Let that season go a little bit and let these guys that draw the tag get something with hair? I'm just . . .

Justin Shannon: Yeah, um, I think with goat hunting the only tradeoff with that is access. I mean we can certainly have them later um . . .

Brian Johnson: Start them the same time and just let them go. And if someone wants to wait and they don't get to hunt then maybe, they made that choice. It's not the Division saying you couldn't hunt until November. They wanted to wait until November.

Justin Shannon: Yeah. I'm trying to remember the timeframe on the goats. I think it's about 30 days that they get. And that's quite a bit of time for these limited entry hunts. So, but if the RAC wants to recommend late hunts on these, later season dates that's fine. We want high success rates for sure.

Brian Johnson: I get that you're managing for that. I was just wondering why they get shut down before October 15<sup>th</sup>, you know, because big fluffy goats need to get big and fluffy.

Justin Shannon: Sure. I mean we have a 35-day season. So yeah.

Dave Black: Okay, one more time, any more questions from the RAC?

### **Questions from the public:**

Dave Black: Okay. At this time we'll turn questions over to the public. If we have any we won't call you up, you are free to come up to the mic. Please state your name. And if it's a comment we'll get to the comment section shortly. So this is for questions only.

Lee Tracy: Lee Tracy, United Wildlife Cooperative. This is not a statement but an explanation. I've been involved with that Parowan deer transplant from the get go, including the planning of it, the range ride, the actual transplant, and now the updates. The only thing I didn't do was go to the release site. I have some questions about the, having heard now that we're going to do some transplants in January. I have some questions as to why we're doing it so soon. I update on Monster Muleys and Utah Wildlife Forum updates on a regular basis. And the latest update is this, of the 102 deer that we transplanted we've lost 45 of them in 48 weeks. That's a little bit less than a week. So if that rate keeps up next year, at the end of next year we'll be done. Okay? I have some questions. Why did we decide first of all to transplant in January? This coming January apparently

Justin Shannon: Generally when you do big game transplants the time that it's most miserable for us, the coldest, is when it's actually best for the animals. And so we're trying to capture deer at the coldest spell. They have a tendency to get real hot and stressed and get something called capture myopathy. And if you can minimize that by trapping them in colder months it's a better situation for the deer.

Lee Tracy: My question is not the fact that we do it in January, I understand that's the best time. Why are we doing it at all?

Justin Shannon: You know it's an interesting question because as an agency it's something that we've been reluctant to do for decades. And I think the best way to answer it it is, it's really two fold, you have one scenario where lethal removal may or may not be an option but you need to minimize deer populations, whether they're too stressed on a winter range, whether they're impacting the winter range, the browse that's there, different things like that. You can either call for doe hunts or you can transplant them. And so either way you're solving a problem on this potential source. Now the flip side of it is you have the potential possibly to bolster a deer herd that has historically held more deer, which has adequate winter range, that's away from depredation scenarios, things like that. And right now we're trying to explore that more. We're trying to see if this is something we can do. And it's not just the Parowan Front. We have areas like Antelope Island where they're severely over objective. We're very concerned about habitat damage taking place and lethal removal simply isn't an option. And so transplanting these deer and taking them off the island is a management tool that our agency would

really like to explore. That's why we're doing it.

Lee Tracy: Okay, there may be some areas. I know there are a lot of deer up above Bountiful and a lot of other places but some of those types of areas is it Highland that has a doe hunt over there within city limits, and so there, you know there's possibilities to that. You say that it was determined the transplanting would be viable. What do you mean by viable?

Justin Shannon: Maybe I did say viable, I can't remember the context it was in. What it is is transplants are a management tool that we'd like to explore. We don't have good data sets in Utah. I can't go back and say in '97 we moved deer from this local to another one; these were the survival rates, things like that. And you're right, we've lost 44, 45 of the 1-2 deer that we've taken off of the Parowan Front. And there's several ways to look at that, from a biologist's perspective I don't think I would ever start a population if I knew the initial survival rate is 50 percent, but as a sportsman, sportsman look at this and they say this is a win for us because this is 50 percent of the deer that are being moved and otherwise they just would have been killed via doe hunt or Division removal. And so it's really trying to transplant deer, learn as much as we can about it and see what type of management tool it can be for us.

Lee Tracy: Okay, let me disclaim that to 50 percent. We're talking 44 percent in 10 months. This is a three-year study. We're not even in one year into it and we've lost almost half of them now. If we're moving them to an area that traditionally supported deer what makes us think that we're going to, and they're not supporting those deer now, what makes us think by moving more deer into it that they're going to support them now? If they haven't supported them for the last little while there's a reason for it and moving deer into that isn't going to cure that. What are we doing to make sure that more than just the fact that the areas are remote, and whatever, what biological steps are we taking, predator steps are we taking, testing and those kinds of things that we're taking besides chronic wasting disease?

Justin Shannon: Help me understand that question again. Can you simplify that? Are you essentially asking what are we doing to insure this might be successful?

Lee Tracy: You've designated some areas, but there's some things that happened to deer because of other reasons other than the fact that they're eating sage brush, number one their stomachs are very species specific, at least the microbes in their stomachs are very species specific. So if you're taking them from an area where they're eating Wyoming sage brush and put them on a sagebrush area they'll starve to death with full stomach. Has this been taken into fact? For instance to make it viable, the costs, the timing, manpower, and safety all should be considered. And are we looking at things like the elevation, solar orientation, soil composition, geographic orientation, and the specific vegetation? Is that being part of the study?

Justin Shannon: Yeah. So what we're trying to do is we're trying to represent a variety of locations. We have areas like the West Desert, we have areas like Elk Ridge, the Dutton things like that. Not all of these units are the same. And when we moved deer from the Parowan Front up to the Fillmore unit we were trying to match winter range to winter range. And you're right; if you take deer that have a high plain nutritional diet off of tulips and things like that they may not survive as well as some of the other ones that are being moved from a sagebrush area to a sagebrush area. But what we're trying to do is have enough release sites that have variety that we can match those as best as we can. And there's a lot to learn. I don't pretend to have all the answers. We don't have good data sets. This is why it's something that we're trying to explore, learn as much as we can as we move deer from a variety of

locations and release them and see what the survival rates are and see what the limiting factors of these are going to be. And then in a few years we'll be able to better determine what success looks like

Lee Tracy: All right, thanks.

Dave Black: Do we have any more questions from public?

DeLoss Christensen: DeLoss Christensen. I live in Glenwood, Utah. I'm just representing myself this evening. Thanks for letting us share this time with you again. I have a question, were any of you that are on the RAC tonight, were any of you on the RAC in I think in 2008, when we discussed moving the Monroe from a no spike hunt to a spike hunt? You were on it Sam and Cordell? I think Vance you were with the Richfield region at that time, were you not? Well if you recall the result of the meeting in Richfield when we met on this as a RAC was to wait and see what the results of an increased harvest on the mature bulls was going to be before we introduced spike hunting on the Monroe. And that evening the RAC all voted to support to do that, to delay the spike hunt on the Monroe, to see what the consequences would be of the additional large bull tags. And the Wildlife Board, because of the other RACs chose not to do that because they voted not to, not knowing the situation. I believe that was the reason they voted not to. So I guess my question tonight, and I guess I would have to direct it to Vance because he was here then, do you think Vance that the concerns we had at that time have been proven to be true in that we don't have the number of mature bulls now that we had then? Is that a yes?

Vance Mumford: Yes.

DeLoss Christensen: So you were right in 2008 in your decision, even though others didn't agree with you. And I just wanted to clarify that tonight because we're living now with the results of the decision, not that this RAC made, but others that didn't have the concern but should have had them. So that was my question.

Dave Black: Thank you DeLoss.

Gene Boardman: I'm Gene Boardman from Hinkley. My question is, I didn't quite understand what we were trying to do with that pronghorn boundary situation. I'd like it explained just a little more.

Dustin Schaible: Was that for the Parker and Mt. Dutton?

Gene Boardman: Yeah.

Dustin Schaible: Okay. What we have there is that on the southern portion of Johns Valley is split by the Dutton boundary and the Boulder boundary. And what happens there is the pronghorn go on both sides of the road there, and Parker hunters can come down and shoot their pronghorn with their Parker tag in Johns Valley, even though they're not connected to the Parker pronghorn herd. That's a Mt. Dutton herd. So what we're trying to do there is prevent over harvest of the Johns Valley herd from Parker hunters and just force Parker hunters to be up on the Parker and allow the Dutton, Paunsagaunt hunters access to all of the Johns Valley herd. Does that make sense? Okay.

Dave Black: Thank you.

DeLoss Christensen: Mr. Chairman, can I ask another question?

Dave Black: Sure.

DeLoss Christensen: I'm the same guy I was a minute ago. The question has been asked by members of the RAC this evening, if the migration of elk off adjacent units may not be satisfactory increase so that the harvest of 165 bulls, spike bulls, is not or causing a reduction in the mature bull population that the age class management objective would have. And I think we've had quite a bit of discussion tonight about that migration from the adjacent units, particularly the Dutton. And I think from my understanding is collared elk indicating that there may be some 300 head, or 30 percent, of the unit moving over onto the Monroe. And so you might conclude that in fact we're bringing spikes on the unit. But the thing that I want to make clear is, through a question to Vance again, Vance, do we have elk leaving the Monroe going to other units like they're coming on to the units from the Dutton?

Vance Mumford: Yep, good question. And we absolutely have elk that leave the Monroe, that winter there and elk that jump back and forth in all different directions. I think just to kind of summarize it, I think if we look at the number of spikes that are harvested on Monroe and the number of spikes that we count in the winter tells us that we do have a net gain of elk in the summer. In other words we definitely have more elk in the summer than we do in the winter. But to pin that down, you know, we don't know and that's why we do the winter population estimate.

DeLoss Christensen: So to clarify again, we know how many are coming on from the Dutton from the ratios of the collared elk, but we do not know how many are leaving because we don't have Monroe elk collared, is that correct?

Vance Mumford: That's correct.

DeLoss Christensen: And so it is possible, although maybe not likely but possible, that more spikes leave the Monroe than come on?

Vance Mumford: DeLoss, anything is possible but probably not likely looking at our harvest numbers.

DeLoss Christensen: Would you say that there may be some equity? Or do you think we're gaining?

Vance Mumford: I think, yeah, I think again looking at our harvest numbers we are gaining over the 1,400, yeah.

DeLoss Christensen: During the summer?

Vance Mumford: During the summertime.

DeLoss Christensen: Okay, thanks.

Dave Black: Sure, go ahead.

Cordell Pearson: Hey, while you're up there Vance, didn't you make the comment that in the summertime we have 1,800 head of elk on the Monroe and in the winter we have like 1,400?

Vance Mumford: You know that would be a real rough estimate. You know the number that we can pin down is 1,400 and then we look at approximately a third of those Dutton elk are coming over and so we're adding several hundred.

Cordell Pearson: Okay, so probably 400 head of elk, let's just say half of them are cows, okay half are bulls, out of that percentage you've got 25% that are spikes. Okay, that still leaves 100 head of elk off of either the Fishlake, the Beaver, or the Dutton, correct? They're going to be there during the summer months, because they're not going to leave until October until they get shot at.

Vance Mumford: Yeah, you know, the studies I think show that those elk start trickling off in early September but the big movement of elk is later in October and November.

Cordell Pearson: Okay, thank you.

Dave Black: Do we have any more questions from the public?

### **Comments from the public:**

Dave Black: Okay, we'll move to the comment section from the RAC. Do we have comments from the RAC? Excuse me, I'm sorry. We'll do the public comments first. And so before we start I have three cards that I'd like to read where they've requested not to come to the mic. Jason Aiken with the Iron County SFW. And he indicates that Iron County SFW supports the SFW's recommendation, which is . . . we don't have that yet. Okay, here's Bryce's recommendation. I should have read this one first. Bryce Pilling, Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife indicates that they support the DWR's recommendation; therefore Iron County also supports DWR's recommendation. And then I have a comment card from Kevin Williams. His comment is regarding meat processing. Where he indicates that if your meat is in process by a butcher to stamp the meet instead of keeping the tag with the meat, unless you butcher your own meat. Did you want to comment any more Kevin? I don't know that I did you justice. Okay, so you're looking for a change. Okay. Thank you. And now we'll move to the comment cards. The first one is John Keeler and then followed by John will be Lee Tracy. What we'd like to do, especially since we have such a large agenda, if you're representing the sportsman or a group you will have five minutes to comment. If you're representing an individual you will have three minutes to comment. And we can only have one representative per group otherwise you'll be counted as an individual.

John Keeler: John Keeler, Utah Farm Bureau. I serve on a Monroe Mountain aspen working group. And one of the problems that we have on the Monroe Mountain is lack of recruitment of young aspen into the aspen community. And part of that problem is grazing pressure. And so we've been looking at ways to minimize that pressure. And one of the things that was talked about is of course regulating the numbers of ungulates on the mountain. There's been presentation made to the RAC and the Wildlife Board from the Monroe Mountain group trying to educate the public as to the problem. And so I think it's important that we take a look at all the permit numbers on that mountain as it relates to this aspen problem. And so I think it would be ill advised to discontinue the spike any weapon hunt as we need to keep that pressure on those numbers so that that keeps the pressure off of the aspen grazing. It's a big problem not only there but other places and I think we need to address that problem and any ways we can do that I think

we should. So we would recommend that you continue the spike any weapon hunt.

Dave Black: Thank you. Lee. And then followed by Lee we'll have Gene Boardman.

Lee Tracy: United Wildlife Cooperative recommends that we accept the provisions that have been shown and have been presented with one exception, and that's the, or with one disclaimer at least. We will accept and support the process of transplanting deer but with a disclaimer that we need to understand that if we're moving deer to prevent depredation and solely to prevent depredation and habitat damage we accept that. If we're moving them for the main purpose of trying to upgrade or improve the population in another unit we oppose those kinds and recommend that we don't transplant for those reasons at all. We also are concerned about the fact that if we start doing as much transplanting as maybe we think we ought to we'll eliminate a lot of doe hunts and we are opposed to that as well.

Dave Black: Thank you. Gene. And then followed by Gene we have Paul Neimeyer.

Gene Boardman: Okay, Gene Boardman, Hinkley, Utah. I've got 2 or 3 things I'd like to talk about. One is it's always interesting that as soon as they start talking about taking pressure off from the game the first thing that they go to is the any weapons hunt. Sometimes it would be a good idea for everybody to have skin in the game and proportion it out. Maybe, maybe the any weapons hunt is the way to go and I guess you can always get one of those shoulder cannons if you really want to chase em. But we're kind of any weapons hunters. It's just kind of interesting that that's always the first option is the any weapons. I'd like to see something done different about the way that the draw, the timing of when you have to apply for hunts in this state and how long it takes for the results to come out, especially on the bucks bulls and once-in-a-lifetime. Some of the other hunts they seem to be able to go from the draw to the results in about three weeks and this one takes what, 70, 80, 90 days? And maybe have it at a different time of the year. I'm not sure why it has to be done in the winter and early spring. And the other thing is that it's kind of a, well put your applications in and then we'll decide later whether there's a hunt there for you or how many tags there's going to be available. It's seems to me that we need to really look at what we've got and see if there isn't a better way to do that. Thank you.

Dave Black: Thank you. Paul. And then followed by Paul is DeLoss.

Paul Niemeyer: I'm Paul Neimeyer. The history on this meeting that they had on the Monroe elk a few weeks ago, it was actually recommended by this RAC a year ago that we ask the Board, the RAC would ask the Board to look at the Monroe hunt. So then the Board did pass that down to DWR. So that was where the meeting came. Now I don't know if everybody didn't get notice or what. There was quite a lot of people there. There were county commissioners there, there was some RAC members there, there was people from all over the public, there was people from the elk committee. But it was pretty well attended. And the one thing that came to light, and some of them didn't agree on what we should do, but the one thing that did come is we can't harvest these elk on that unit the way we are and have any quality bulls left. Now some years ago that was the pride of Utah. That was the best unit probably in the western United States. It is very accessible; it will not take a lot of pressure, which we have proved that now. You know I live on that unit. I grew up on that unit. I lived there before there was elk there. I hate to tell you all that. But at any rate we have taken that with too many probably mature bull tags and easy access and then now with the spike hunts. But last year we, well we're hunting them right now but the vote was for 244 cow tags on the Monroe, then you've got depredation mitigation and it's an either sex archery hunt. Then on the north end of the Dutton there's about 500 cow tags scattered through this fall

and early winter. So we've got a unit or an elk population that the objective is 1,800 winter count. We figure there are 1,400. Now we can all argue about what goes on and off and from what direction but that is the management plan that's there now. Right now we're harvesting more spikes on the Monroe than on the Fishlake. The Fishlake has got 4 times the objective as the Monroe. So it kind of illustrates the way that they can kill these spikes. Now in that meeting there was, say everybody wanted to do something to improve the bull harvest on that, the older age bulls into more quality. Uh, the two recommendations that came out of that, one was to just don't hunt spikes period, and the other one was to go to that archery and muzzleloader only. And then it went up through the DWR process and through their people and that's where we came, or they came to the recommendation for archery and muzzleloader.

Dave Black: Can you wrap that up for us Paul? You're running out of time. Can you wrap that up for us? I'm sorry.

Paul Neimeyer: Say that again.

Dave Black: We're running out of time.

Paul Neimeyer: Okay. Well basically where we're at is there was a lot of people there. They're not happy with seeing it's bull quality get to where it is. And so that was the two recommendations that came out. The DWR has recommended to you that you go to muzzleloader or to archery. And that's how the history of that came through. So I'd say you guys voted for that a year ago to look at it. They looked at it, the Board looked at it and then they brought it back to the RAC. So that's the history.

Dave Black: Thank you. That is very useful. Appreciate that. DeLoss.

DeLoss Christensen: Thanks again. I sit on the same aspen work group committee that John mentioned. In fact he and I were in the same room from about 8:30 until 4:30 today together on that committee. And just to assure you, there is concern over aspen regeneration on the mountain. But we are not asking for more elk. We're simply asking for a distribution that's different. So I agree with John. We are staying with the elk management number, in fact we're quite a ways beneath what the elk management plan says we can have on the unit. And I recognize that there are tradeoffs. If we're going to have more spikes and more bulls that are branch antler and bigger on that unit at some point in time we'll have to decide that we'll have to have less cows. But we're not at the number that the system has said that we can have there yet. So while I'm concerned about that I'm not concerned about it at this time because we're under that objective. And with taking the cows off the unit this year and probably some more next year we'll see that the number of elk up there isn't a concern. I was one that attended the meeting. I wasn't invited, I heard about it and I attended like anyone else had. And I know there were eight or nine people around me that just showed up to that meeting because they were concerned. The truth of the matter was there was a straw poll taken at the meeting by the gentleman from the Division that conducted the meeting and 2/3 would have rather had no spike hunting on the Monroe at all. And the other 1/3 voted to do the recommendation that the Division's recommended here today. So I think what you're seeing is a compromised recommendation and we support that. I support that. I'm supporting the Division's recommendation. And I want to thank them for working with those of us who are not only emotionally attached to this but hunt and live on that mountain and know what's happened and the changes that have taken place there. So we recognize that this isn't maybe what the majority of sportsman would like but we also recognize that it's a step. There's no reason we can't come back here in a couple of years if it's

not adequate and ask you to take another step forward; and we may do that. But we're willing to say if you'll grant us this opportunity to let's see what will happen if we restrict this to archery and muzzleloader hunting. Now the truth is we may not lose any opportunity, in fact there's been chatter on the Internet that lots and lots of people with muzzleloaders and archers will come down on the Monroe this next year to hunt spikes.

Dave Black: Can you wrap that up for us DeLoss?

DeLoss Christensen: For a lot of different reasons. So I'm not suggesting that there will be less people hunting there. There will be less rifle hunters. But again, thank you to the Division and your support. And I hope the RAC will support us tonight on this as well. Thanks again.

Dave Black: The last comment card I have for this item is from Brayden Richmond. Have I missed anybody? Okay.

Brayden Richmond: Brayden Richmond representing the SFW fulfillment board. Just a little clarification. The SFW state fulfillment board we want to support the Division's recommendations as is and frankly really are happy with the recommendations they're bringing up with one small exception and a little bit of clarification. On the Monroe unit, we did a non-vote on that, we don't either approve of it or support it. In fact just to clarify our discussion we didn't feel like we had enough information being a statewide board versus what the local area had. So that's the state's opinion. Thank you.

Dave Black: Thank you Brayden.

### **RAC Discussion and Vote:**

Dave Black: Okay, with no more comment cards we'll move to comments from the RAC. Layne.

Layne Torgerson: I just have one comment. I was at that meeting in Richfield on the Monroe spike. And just to concur what the comments made by Deloss and Paul, there was support; there is concern with the local people in Sevier County with the spike harvest on the Monroe. And it was a consensus that night and I pretty much sat in the back of the room, I didn't say much, I wanted to hear what the local people had to say. Um there was a consensus that night that there is a concern there for the over harvest of the spikes on the Monroe. And something that came out that didn't really didn't come out at the meeting but some of the guys that were sitting back there around me felt like that the Monroe was almost called the second weekend unit. A lot of guys were hunting the Fishlake, the Boulder, the Beaver the first weekend and when they're not successful they're let's go to the Monroe it's easy we'll go kill one over there. And I think that is a valid concern that the Monroe is an easy unit to hunt and when they're unsuccessful on some of the other units they're migrating, the hunters are migrating to the Monroe. And so, and the support from some of the elected officials that were there, they all want to see something done with that hunt; and that's what I got out of that meeting was we just need to do something. And so the recommendation from the, that's where the recommendation came from that we have presented here tonight. Thanks.

Dave Black: Thank you Layne for that report. Any other comments? Sean.

Sean Kelly: Yeah, I just thought I better chime in on it from the Forest's stand point about the aspen

regeneration, that's been a major issue with us. But our understanding is it won't change the population objectives on the unit. In other words you're at objective. Any increase or decrease in bull harvest can be made up by an increase in cow harvest. From a biologist's standpoint I'd much rather see the cows die, they're a, it's like a two for one. I don't know why but dead cows don't have as many calves. So you know from that standpoint we see no issue at all in the aspen regen.

Dave Black: Okay. Clair, you're thinking. Do you have a comment? Anybody else? Dale.

Dale Bagley: I was at the meeting also in Richfield. I'm not sure how I got invited because there was definitely a divide. More people on the Piute side of that unit liked the spike hunt. I agree there is a problem; we are taking a lot of spikes off there, but I think it's two fold. You basically admitted that for three years the increase was there, on the mature bulls they upped them heavily. And then they shut it down, slammed it and raised the age objective. Well you do that, yeah, you're not going to make the age objective for several years. It takes a lot of years to grow those bulls. I really don't care if we stop the spike hunt, but we can't just sit on a ton of bulls like we did for the past 15 years and until we get to that point where we've got to hurry and harvest a bunch because we're at objective. You're going to have to take some bulls off that top end while you're saving a bunch of spikes. I will tell you one thing, that spike hunt has upped the pressure on those elk in the valleys and that's the only thing that finally drives them out of the valley. It doesn't matter if you do a spike hunt, you can do a big cow hunt as long as you do something to get those elk out of the valley. Um, and that's a choice I guess you all can make when it comes to that point.

Dave Black: Thank you. Any more comments, are you ready? Clair. You're going to miss your turn. We're going to move on if you don't have a comment.

Clair Woodbury: Yeah, I do. I want you out there to know that I'm one of the biggest proponents of elk and the way the state of Utah has managed elk in the last 30 years. I think we've done a fantastic job. I started hunting elk in the 1970's. And if you saw an elk it was celebration time around the campfire. And now our main problem is, you know, how do we keep the numbers down. I think the spike hunt is done what we wanted it to do. We were stockpiling bulls to where we would have to shoot the cows to get to objective. Have we gone too far on the Monroe? I don't know. I don't know. I look at the overall numbers. The 2010 count we had 1,100, the 2013 count we had 1,400. We've increased the herd by 300. And if we're taking that many spikes then that 300 would be cows. Those cows that they have the typical 50 percent calves, that means there's 150 calves with 75 of those would have been spike bulls this year, 75 more spike bulls than we had in 2010. That would explain a lot of why we had so much more spike kill this year, we have a lot more spikes on that mountain, just doing the math. Uh, I don't know what I would recommend or what I would follow as far as just going, getting rid of the any weapon hunt. On the deer transplants, you know Lee brought up a lot of good questions but it keeps coming back to if we don't transplant them we have the doe hunts and we have 100 percent mortality on those does. As it is we've had 40 to 45 percent mortality. And that wouldn't take into consideration the fawns that those does had this year. We've got, those aren't tagged or collared, the fawns that they dropped in April and May. So we have more than just the 58 does left. We have the 58 does plus what fawns they dropped, we're right back up near that 100 number that we transplanted. And those fawns that were born this year are now resident deer in that Fillmore area. They're not transplanted they're resident now. So I would be all for continuing these doe transplants. I think that's a great idea. And that's all I have.

Dave Black: Okay, do we have any further comments? Okay, Mack.

Mack Morrell: I find it kind of ironic that you want to combine units on the goats but yet you don't want to combine any units on the elk, between the Fishlake, Dutton, Monroe and Boulder. Plus you have the aspen study going on, plus you already got some collared elk study going on. I don't know why you'd want to change in the middle of the game. Why not wait 2 years and then make some changes. And like Dale mentioned, Piute County has a major problem in the wintertime with elk in the fields and all. And you'd have to see it to find out what's happening there. They had to build fences, they had to shoot bulls, they had to do everything. And they're coming from the Monroe. So I think we just as well leave it status quo for 2 years. And then that way the aspen study will be done and then you'll find out what really the results are.

Dave Black: Thank you Mack. Let me just summarize real quick, the way I see it there are 3 main items that have been brought up and discussed, and if you'd like we can deal with these three items before we move on to the main motion. And those are, the first one is the spike hunt on the Monroe, if we're going to keep it as is or if we're going to eliminate the any weapon hunt. And it looks like from the comment cards that we have, two that were for and two that were against. The other item that was brought up is the timing of the draw, too long to get the results. And the third item was that we don't require the tag to stay with professionally processed meat. And so those are the three items we can, if there's anybody that would like to bring those up. Let's maybe address those separately and then we can move on to the main motion. Let's uh, maybe um, talk about the spike elk hunt now. Is there anybody that would like to comment any further or ready to make a motion? Layne.

Layne Torgerson: I would make a motion that we accept the Division's recommendation on the Monroe spike hunt to eliminate the any weapon hunt and maintain the archery and muzzleloader hunt.

Dave Black: Okay, we have a motion from Layne. Do we have a second?

Mike Staheli: I second it.

Dave Black: Okay, we have a second from Mike. Is there any discussion on the motion?

Clair Woodbury: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a motion to amend Layne's motion. I hate to see us lose that opportunity for the general public to hunt that Monroe spike elk hunt. I would make the motion that we keep all three hunts at the regular dates but to further compromise, as the Division has put it, leave those dates open that would generally be in the any weapon to primitive weapon.

Dave Black: Do we have a second on the amendment.

Brian Johnson: I want some clarification.

Dave Black: Okay. Do you want to restate that?

Clair Woodbury: First two weeks of October is the rifle, or the any weapon spike hunt. I say we leave that open on the Monroe but you must use an archery or a muzzleloader. We will still have the opportunity to hunt them but just I increase the difficulty level and give people the opportunity to go up there.

Layne Torgerson: Mr. Chairman.

Dave Black: Yes.

Layne Torgerson: I think Robert's Rule of order come in. I don't think that he can amend my motion to make my motion null and void.

Kevin Bunnell: Layne, he needs a second on his amendment. And then we vote on the amendment and then we'll come back to the original motion. So what we need to do right now is we need to ask for a second on the amendment. And if we get a second we'll vote on the amendment first and then if the amendment is successful then that amends the original motion. And then we vote on that motion after that.

Dave Black: Okay, right now we have an amendment to the motion from Clair. Do we have a second on that amendment? Okay we have a second from Brian. Do we have any discussion on the amendment?

Brian Johnson: I'm with Clair on this. I hate to see opportunity go away. We're not, you're not going to increase the number of elk that get killed really, you're just letting them hunt for an extra two weeks, which, you know, as long as we're not shooting them at 300 yards with high powered rifles I think that we'll accomplish what everybody else here is trying to do. So I think it's actually a pretty good amendment there. Thanks Clair.

Dave Black: Any further discussion? Okay, do we need to restate this amendment? Is everybody clear on the amendment? Okay.

Clair Woodbury: I would recommend that we amend Layne's motion to keep the Monroe Mountain spike elk hunt dates open but only for the use of primitive weapons, muzzleloader or archery. That is in that two-week period in early October.

Kevin Bunnell: During the dates of the any weapon hunt allow the use of primitive weapons on the Monroe.

Clair Woodbury: During the dates of the any weapons hunt, the first two weeks of October when that normally happens.

Dave Black: Sam.

Sam Carpenter: Yeah, the one thing that I see in doing what you wanted to do Clair is, how many hunters that have these tags are going to show up up there? You know if you have one unit in the state that's going to have muzzleloader and archery hunt going on for an extra couple of weeks you're going to get inundated with a ton of hunters up there during that period of time. It's going to really, you know, it could have an impact. I know it's not going to kill any more elk than the tags permit but the hunt quality would be probably quite a crowd. I imagine a lot of people would want to go do that if you did change that date.

Clair Woodbury: Well if there's 165 spikes getting shot during those 2 weeks I think that mountain's

inundated.

Kevin Bunnell: Let me just a brief comment Clair. I appreciate what you're trying to do. It does bring up some issues with the licensing and law enforcement when we sell a tag that says an any weapon tag on it but then we're only allowing them to use a certain number on, because that's a statewide tag. And so that's something that we'll have to have, I'm sure there will be some discussion on that issue at the Wildlife Board while our licensing folks are there. And I don't know if that's something that's doable from their standpoint or from the law enforcement standpoint or not. But I appreciate what you're trying to accomplish.

Brian Johnson: Just a question, as far as discussion goes we're selling a statewide spike tag anyways. We've got to change, if we, if this goes through we're changing the Monroe anyways. Correct?

Kevin Bunnell: Right. But we'd just be closing it during those dates. Instead of having it, instead of allowing someone, keeping it open but only allowing primitive weapons during an any weapon hunt. It may be doable. I'm just saying it's going to generate some discussion with our law enforcement and our licensing folks. And I don't know to what end because we haven't had those conversations yet.

Dave Black: Okay. Justin.

Justin Shannon: Sorry to chime in. One more thing to consider, I think in the past we've had cow rifle hunts at that same time. And if this recommendation went with having primitive weapons we can do away with those cow hunts. We can do them at different times. We can get creative that way but it's something to consider that normally with those spike hunts you have cow hunts going on with rifles at the same time.

Dave Black: Thank you. Paul?

Clair Woodbury: We're in the middle of a vote up here. I think a point of order here Mr. Chairman. We're in the middle of a vote up here with the RAC only.

Dave Black: I know that on the board level, the Wildlife Board level we've allowed discussion before the vote. And uh, I think that it's valid to have Paul give his comments right now.

Paul Niemeyer: The only comment I've got is if we, the idea behind here is to kind of limit the spike hunts in some way, and if you put everybody in the state of Utah could come in here and hunt archery or muzzleloader during that regular hunt. I think that would pull more hunters in and probably not do what we are really looking to do.

Dave Black: Thank you. Okay, are we ready to take a vote on the amendment? And this is only to the amendment. All those in favor? All those opposed? Okay, do we have a count? Okay, so the amendment dies.

**Clair Woodbury made the motion to amend the previous motion to keep the any weapon season dates on the Monroe unit but to limit the hunt to primitive weapons (archery and muzzleloader) only. Brian Johnson seconded. Motion failed, 2 in favor, 9 opposed.**

Dave Black: We're back to the main motion. Do we have any more discussion on the main motion? Okay, let's vote on the main motion, and the main motion is to support the Division's recommendation as presented relative to spike hunting on the Monroe. Sure.

Cordell Pearson: I just want to make a comment on this Monroe thing. And I agree with Dale. But this hunt, and I live in Piute County. I know people that hunted on the Monroe, at least 10 guys that never even saw a spike. Okay, what I'm saying here, okay, if this motion passes then when we come up with the elk plan I don't want to see the same group of people back in here. I want to see what has happened, okay, in this next two years that if this has helped, it has hindered, or it hasn't done one drop of good. Okay, I don't know how I do that but I will bring it back up again because we have fought this battle, fought this battle, and fought this battle. Elk on the Monroe come from the Fishlake, come from the Dutton. Okay, the Monroe, and I don't think we kill any more elk percentage wise, Monroe elk during that spike hunt than we do on any other mountain. I've hunted the Monroe. I live there. Okay, right at the bottom of it. I live right between the Dutton, the Monroe and the Beaver. Okay, I just, I know if it were up to me I would say we do what we're doing. But, I will, okay, honor what the DWR wants to do but in two years I don't want this same group of people coming back here saying well guess what, it didn't help one drop so now we've got to drop the spike tag again. I want to see this issue come back up again. Thank you.

Dave Black: Thanks for your comment. Okay, let's have a vote. All those in favor? All those opposed? Okay, let's do it one more time. All those in favor hold you hands up. All those opposed? Okay, motion dies. Okay and that has to do with the spike.

**Layne Torgerson made the motion to accept the division's recommendations for spike hunting on the Monroe unit, to discontinue the any weapon hunt. Mike Staheli seconded. Motion failed, 5 in favor, 6 opposed.**

Dave Black: There was two other items and you can choose if we want to bring those up at this time or not, um, and that was again . . . Mack do you have a motion?

Mack Morrell: I make a motion to keep the spike hunt as it has been and do the status quo.

Dale Bagley: Second.

Dave Black: Okay, and we have a motion by Mack and a second by Dale. Is there any discussion on the motion?

Brian Johnson: Just to be clear, you're just talking about until the end of the plan and we revisit this in two years Mack? Is that what the intent is?

Mack Morrell: That's when this would be addressed in two years, yes, that's correct.

Dave Black: Okay, any further discussion? All those in favor? We have a second by Dale. Okay, all those in favor? All those opposed? Motion carries.

**Mack Morrell made the motion to keep spike elk hunting on the Monroe as it has been and stay with the status quo. Dale Bagley seconded. Motion carried 7 in favor 4 opposed.**

Dave Black: Okay. Before we get to the remainder of the plan you can choose if you want to bring up a motion either regarding the timing of the draw and or the tag requiring to stay with the professional processed meat.

Brian Johnson: I don't have a motion considering those but I would love to make a motion on goat hunts.

Dave Black: Okay, go ahead.

Brian Johnson: I would like to see those go until December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Dave Black: Okay, do we have a second on the motion?

Clair Woodbury: What are dates now Brian?

Brian Johnson: I'd have to look.

Clair Woodbury: Approximately.

Brian Johnson: Can you give me a ballpark, September 1<sup>st</sup> to the end of September?

Justin Shannon: Yeah, it's generally September 8<sup>th</sup> through October 12<sup>th</sup>. And there's a little bit of variation depending on individual hunts.

Brian Johnson: And the reason I bring this up is because these are generally in areas that don't overlap with other hunters. They are managing for 100 percent success. And if these guys choose to wait until the very end and they don't get access to the mountain then that was their once in a lifetime shot, shame on them. So I don't know, we're managing for 100 percent.

Dave Black: Do we have a second on the motion?

Rusty Aiken: Second.

Dave Black: Okay, we have a second by Rusty. Do we have any discussion on the motion?

Clair Woodbury: I would like to ask a question. And I'm not real knowledgeable on the goats. You say they get hairy or fluffy? Do they grow a winter coat later in the season is what I'm asking and that's very desirable?

Brian Johnson: Very. Yeah, that's what's going on. The longer the hunt goes the more hairy they get and the better looking they are. The flip side is you may not get up on the mountain to kill them.

Dave Black: Go ahead.

Justin Shannon: If I may. I think one reason that it hasn't been recommended much further than October 12<sup>th</sup> in the past is the rut starts at that time in November, and those types of timeframes, and some

populations may rut a little bit earlier. Again, but where you land with that I don't know. We just talked about hunting elk in the rut; so just something to consider as to why it hasn't gone that far in the past.

Dave Black: Okay. Brian.

Brian Johnson: Yeah, they rut in November but we're still managing for 100 percent success.

Dave Black: Any further discussion? Okay, let's take a vote. All those in favor of Brian's motion to extend the season of the goat hunt to December 1<sup>st</sup>, all those in favor? All those opposed? And then did we have an abstention or did we all add up? Okay, motion fails.

**Brian Johnson made the motion to extend the mountain goat season dates through December 1. Rusty Aiken seconded. Motion fails, 4 in favor, 7 opposed.**

Dave Black: Okay, the two other concerns that were brought up, one more time before we move on was the tag with the meat and the timing of the draw as far as the results coming too long after the submittal of the application.

Clair Woodbury: I've never heard of any problem with the tag being left with the meat in the freezer. I say we ignore it.

Dave Black: No we don't have to do anything on either one of those. So if that is the case and the desire then we can move on. We need to address the remainder of the plan that was presented with the Bucks, Bulls, Once-In-A-Lifetime season dates and application timeline.

Brian Johnson: I make a motion that we pass the balance of the Division's recommendations.

Rusty Aiken: Second

Dave Black: Okay, we have a motion and a second. Motion from Brian, second from Rusty. Do we have any discussion on the motion? All those in favor? That looks unanimous.

**Brian Johnson made the motion to accept the remainder of the Bucks, Bulls & OIAL 2014 Season Dates & Application Timeline as presented by the Division. Rusty Aiken seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Dave Black: Okay, let's move on. Thank you. We're on item number 6, which is the CWMU Management Plans and the Permit Numbers for 2014, and Scott McFarland is going to present that for us.

**CWMU Management Plans and Permit Numbers for 2014 (action) 2:04:19 to 2:14:29 of 3:26:46  
-Scott McFarlane, Wildlife Program Coordinator  
(See attachment 1)**

**Questions from the RAC:**

Dave Black: Do we have any questions from the RAC? Okay.

**Questions from the public:**

Dave Black: Do we have any questions from the public?

**Comments from the public:**

Dave Black: Comments, I have comment cards. I have one that I, I had one that I wanted to read. This is from the Executive Board of the Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife. And it states that they support the DWR's recommendations on these items. And then I have a comment card from Wade Heaton followed by John Keeler..

Wade Heaton: Wade Heaton representing the CWMU Association as well as myself. Uh, we support the DWR's recommendations. The obviously not all of the CWMUs are up this year for renewal or changes, but we support all the changes and the renewals that are happening right now. CWMU association has been able to work really close with Scott, especially; he's been wonderful to work with. And uh, and things are really, right now we're pretty optimistic the direction we're going with the CWMU program. Things really do look good. We're trying to change a little bit of public perspective. We've got a little uphill battle to go with some of that but we are making some headway. I think for the most part the CWMUs understand the privilege they've got and are willing to work and make it work for everybody. Anyway, I want to appreciate you for your time and thank you.

Dave Black: Thank you Wade. John.

John Keeler: John Keeler, Utah Farm Bureau. The Farm Bureau supports the CWMU management plan program and the landowner permits program, and supports the Division's recommendations. Thank you.

Dave Black: Okay. That's all the comment cards.

**RAC discussion and vote:**

Dave Black: Do we have any comments from the RAC? If we don't have any comments we're ready to entertain a motion.

Cordell Pearson: I'd like to make a motion that we accept DWR's proposal as presented.

Sean Kelly: I'll second.

Dave Black: And we have a second by Sean. Okay do I have any discussion on the motion? With no discussion we'll move to a vote. All those in favor? It's unanimous.

**Cordell Pearson made the motion to accept the CWMU Management Plans and Permit Numbers**

**for 2014 as presented. Sean Kelly seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Dave Black: Okay, we'll move on to the next item, which is the Landowner Permit Numbers for 2014, and that will be presented to us by Scott.

**Landowner Permit Numbers for 2014 (action) 2:17:312 to 2:22:22 of 3:26:46**

**-Scott McFarlane, Wildlife Program Coordinator**

(See attachment 1)

**Questions from the RAC:**

Dave Black: Do we have any questions from the RAC? Okay.

Mack Morrell: Is there a minimum acreage for landowner permits?

Scott McFarland: Um, there's not a minimum, yeah there is a minimum acreage. The landowner associations have to enroll at least 51 percent of the private lands within the limited entry unit. So there's a minimum acreage but it's corresponding to the amount of private land that is within the limited entry unit. So, does that make sense?

Mack Morrell: Somewhat I guess. So you're talking about 51 percent of the landowners have to agree then it gets in.

Scott McFarland: Yeah, acreage wise. Yeah, for example if there's 100,000 private land acres within the limited entry unit they would have to come up with 51,000 of those; a simple majority of 51 percent of those acres to qualify to be in a landowner association.

Dave Black: Do we have any additional questions?

**Questions from the public:**

Dave Black: Do we have any questions from the public?

None

**Comments from the public:**

Dave Black: Comment card wise I have a comment card from the executive board of the Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife. They are in support of the DWR's recommendation on this item. Okay, I have two comment cards. The first one is Wade Heaton, and the second one is Jeremy Chamberlain.

Wade Heaton: Just real brief. Representing Friends of the Paunsagaunt. We've talked about this management hunt several times in the past. The hunt has worked the way we had all envisioned it to work. It has accomplished its goals. It has lowered the buck to doe ration, which is the trigger that moves the permit numbers. And so our buck to doe ratio has fallen within the objective. And it has been, we all agreed to the fact that as it fell within the objective we're going to lower permit numbers. So we've

accomplished our goal. We're to the point; we're to the stage where we're starting to lower permit numbers. And so we whole heartedly agree with the DWR's recommendation, both, not that we're uh recommending public tags today but on the landowner side as well as the public side obviously those two entities need to move together, whether it's down or up, those numbers for the private and the landowners need to move together. And the permit numbers have already dropped for the private end or the public end; private tags need to do that same thing. We all agreed to this in advance. Um, and we're just to that next stage. One of the problems is the landowner association hasn't been real involved, to be honest with you. We'll throw them under the bus just a smidgen. But they just haven't been real involved. And so they're lagging behind just a little bit. It kind of hurts me to see the split recommendation but it is what it is. We certainly do support the Division's recommendation though. Thanks.

Dave Black: State your name please.

Jeremy Chamberlain: Jeremy Chamberlain with the Friends of the Paunsaugunt. What I'd like to comment on is just how well this process has worked for the Paunsaugunt unit. I think it's been three years ago we made the recommendation to the RAC. The RAC passed it. It went to the Big Game Board. And you know the recommendation, if I remember correctly, was to actually allocate this number of permits for a trophy hunt. And we, it was fun to see and be involved in how this process has worked to where we as sportsman united ourselves with the RAC and the Fish and Game and got that changed from I think it was 50, if I remember right, Dustin might can help me, but this number of permits was going to go to a trophy hunt and have it dispersed into archery, muzzleloader and rifle hunts. And we felt like that would obviously be a detriment to the people that had been waiting for 14 to 15 years to have that many more people hunting. And so we went with this management hunt and it's worked great. So anyway, my two cents is it's been a good thing. And we support the recommendations that the Fish and Game has given this year.

Dave Black: Thank you.

### **RAC Discussion and Vote:**

Dave Black: And we'll turn comments over to the RAC. Sam.

Sam Carpenter: Yeah, Wade and Jeremy, who is over that landowner committee now? I've been sending the packets to Bob Ott and Mickie Houston and that bunch. Now I just want to make sure that they're getting a copy of what we're doing over here.

Wade Heaton: Um, I'm almost a member of the association so I'll comment for them. Bob is the president. There are four board members and a secretary. They have a one-board meeting once a year. They haven't had a general membership meeting in 5,6,7 years.

Sam Carpenter: Okay, I just hadn't heard from them and I just wanted to make sure I was getting.

Wade Heaton: No one has heard from them.

Sam Carpenter: Okay.

Dave Black: Do we have any other comments from the RAC? Do we need a clarification on what we do with the split recommendation?

Kevin Bunnell: You can deal with the splits one by one if you want or the Division recommendation is there, the ones that, what our recommendation is versus the landowner association. So if there's particular ones that you want to deal with you can individually, or you can just do as one fall swoop.

Dave Black: Okay, if we have no further comments we're ready to entertain a motion.

Sam Carpenter: I make a motion that we accept the proposal on the landowner association as presented.

Dave Black: Do we have a second?

Cordell Pearson: Second.

Dave Black: Okay, we have a second from Cordell. Is there any discussion on the motion? Okay we're ready to vote. All those in favor? Unanimous. Thank you.

**Sam Carpenter made the motion to accept the Landowner Permit Numbers for 2014 as presented. Cordell Pearson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Dave Black: Okay, we'll move on to the next action item, which is the Utah Hunter Mentoring Program, and that will be presented by Greg Hansen.

**Utah Hunter Mentoring Program (New Rule) (action) 2:29:47 to 2:36:22 of 3:26:46**  
**-Greg Hansen, Assistant Attorney General**  
(See attachment 1)

### **Questions from the RAC:**

Dave Black: Thank you very much. Do we have any questions from the RAC?

None.

### **Questions from the public:**

Dave Black: Do we have any questions from the public?

Paul Niemeyer: I guess I got two questions. Do all the draw permits in the state, are they involved in this? Like the once-in-a-lifetime tags?

Greg Hansen: They are. It is open to all big game permits, once-in-a-lifetime included.

Paul Niemeyer: What, has anybody ever thought of what that would do to the drawing odds on these if all the parents and grandparents and whatever that aren't putting in now put in so they can take a kid hunting? I mean that's got to be huge I think.

Greg Hansen: Yes that was a consideration. One item was that the individual that draws the permit has to actually go into the field and act as a mentor. Um, and so there is that one element that will limit the number of people that actually participate in the program. Um, second recruiting youth into the sport seemed like a big enough incentive that um, that was just a consideration that we took into account. Um, but that is definitely something that's been discussed and we'd be willing to take your guys advise on that as well.

Brayden Richmond: I want to ask a serious question in a dumb way if that's all right. Brayden Richmond. Was there any discussion with this, I think we're not naïve enough in here to know that this is already going on. Is there discussion that we're helping good people be honest and that was part of the incentive with this?

Greg Hansen: I don't believe that question was ever framed to me in that way. I think this is an activity that we want to facilitate. And I think that we are aware that this is going on. Um, a lot of other states participate or have programs similar to this and they see high rates of participation. Um, and you know possibly setting up a structure where we are legalizing something that right now is illegal but is happening pretty often, maybe that was a consideration but the main purpose is to recruit youth into the sport.

Gene Boardman: Gene Boardman. I was just wondering if a, say on the general deer season or the general elk season, if the youth draws a tag and takes an animal on that tag is he then, can he also participate in this mentoring thing and take another animal?

Greg Hansen: I believe there are other sections in the wildlife code that limit your taking of an animal to one big game animal per year. And so an individual would have to still comply with all those restrictions in the wildlife code, one animal per person.

Kevin Bunnell: One male animal, one buck, one bull, one yeah.

Dave Black: Do we have any other questions?

### **Comments from the public:**

Dave Black: Okay, we'll turn it over to comments from the public. Again, I have a comment from the Executive Board of the Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife. They are in support of this action. And then I have a comment card from Lee Tracy.

Lee Tracy: We've opened up a can of worms folks. Concerning the draw odds, particularly with once in a lifetime. Personally I have 13 moose points. But if this plan goes into effect there will be a lot of my competitors of course will perhaps drop out from that high point, you know the higher point groups and stuff, but the problem we'll have will come down in the years to come because not only can grandpa and grandma, on both sides, that's four, and mom and dad, that's six, and then any of their friends who get permission from mom and dad, can, will be able to apply for those tags. Um, has it been, I'm not sure why the once in a lifetime and the limited entry hunts are included in this. Um, United Wildlife Cooperative would not oppose the, if the uh, general tags, some deer and elk tags were included in this. But I think we've opened a can of worms. And if the United Wildlife Cooperative would support this if

it were limited to the general hunts of elk and deer. Thank you.

Dave Black: I also have a comment card from Brayden Richmond.

Brayden Richmond: Brayden Richmond representing myself. I was hoping to stay in my seat on this because I thought this would fly through and I couldn't imagine any opposition. Frankly I'm a little disappointed that a conservation group that touts themselves as wanting opportunity would stand and not like this. This is a great program. Our youth, our preference point in the point creek is all but eliminating our youth's opportunity from limited hunts. And we're, what it is is it is greed and we want to keep those for ourselves, and we are eliminating the opportunity for kids. We all now how difficult it is to draw these tags. This is a great program. Let's not even go down that road. Thank you.

Dave Black: DeLoss.

DeLoss Christensen: I'm the same way with some of the comments that have been made. I didn't expect that I'd have to comment on this but I think maybe I should. I think human nature is such that if there's something that you don't expect will happen or that can happen it will. And while I'm, I got lots of grandkids and they love to hunt. And I've got lots of points and I'm getting pretty old. And I'm really getting fat. And I'd like to be able to give it to one of those youngsters some day. But here's a concern I've got and I don't know how you could ever police it. Let's suppose that I've got a real need for some money. And one of my rich friends says I've got a son I'd like to take hunting. Could I buy that opportunity from you? And that's a concern I'd have. And I don't know how you would close that door on that. I just don't know how you would do it without; I mean you could do that so quietly nobody would ever know.

Kevin Bunnell: DeLoss, let me, the rule doesn't allow that.

DeLoss Christensen: I know it doesn't allow it.

Kevin Bunnell: So that could happen right now, regardless of this.

DeLoss Christensen: How so? How so could it happen?

Kevin Bunnell: It's not legal under this. It's not legal now so it's illegal either way.

DeLoss Christensen: Well I realize that. But right now there's no advantage. I mean I guess if I take him out and I hand him my gun, is that what you're saying? Well that's a little different. Okay, well I'm just telling you my opinion. I understand.

Lee Tracy: I didn't take my minutes. Let me explain that I only used myself as an example. The fact of the matter is I'm the last member of my family that hunts. Okay? So uh, this would be great for somebody else but you know. And there are, and I'm not speaking just for myself, I'm speaking for all the others who have, who've waited you know, 15 or 20 years to draw a tag. And I'm not saying that we shouldn't do it, I'm just saying we need to limit it to the general tags. After all, you take a 12 year-old kid up to shoot a bighorn sheep, what's he going to shoot next?

Dave Black: Okay, that's all the comment cards I had.

## **RAC Discussion and Vote:**

Dave Black: Do we have comments from the RAC? Okay. Paul or Dale, excuse me.

Dale Bagley: I just have one concern on it. If you're sharing the tag, I would think you ought to share the gun so to speak. I don't know that you should have two guns out there. Let the youth pack the gun and you mentor him. But I don't know that there's a need for two guns out there with one tag.

Brian Johnson: I've actually talked to a couple of people about this, and I think it's better to, if a 12 year-old or up to a 17 year-old gut shoots a deer, it is far better to have a mentor put down and recover that deer than have that 12 year-old go through that experience if you can avoid it. I see that as being an advantage of having the two guns in the field. It's pretty tough to rip a 12 year-olds gun out of his hands.

Dave Black: Do we have any additional comments? Okay, before we entertain a motion I just want to review again some comments from the audience. And one of the main comments was to limit this program to the general season deer and elk. And then we did have support, a lot of support for the program as presented.

Brian Johnson: I would like to make a motion that we pass it as is.

Dale Bagley: Second.

Dave Black: Okay, we have a motion from Brian and a second by Dale. Any discussion on the motion? Okay, all those in favor? Is it unanimous? Thank you.

**Brian Johnson made the motion to accept the Utah Hunter Mentoring Program as presented. Dale Bagley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Dave Black: Okay, we'll move on to item number 9, which is the Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments, and that will be presented to us by Brian Christensen. Oh, excuse me we have one item that we need to discuss first.

Kevin Bunnell: We had one comment card come up and it didn't really fit anywhere in tonight's agenda but I wanted to make sure that we didn't have somebody travel here and not, if they had a question to get it addressed. Gary (Unknown), are you in the audience? So your comment card about opposing the premium limited entry deer, or putting unit 20, that's not something that we're proposing right now. Okay, it's not something that's being proposed now so I think we're in good shape. It may be in the future and we'll try to make sure that you're aware of it if it ever does.

Off mic discussion.

Kevin Bunnell: Okay. Actually, could I have you give that to Jason back there? He's the biologist over that unit; and probably the best way because it's not part of this agenda. Let me have you just deal with Jason one on one on this right now and if it becomes an issue later we can deal with it then. Thanks. Or, and the RAC could if they want to address it, could put it on the action log in the future. But I just want,

I didn't want somebody to travel all the way there and then not get what they came for addressed. So, I think we can move on now.

Dave Black: Okay, we're ready for the presentation. Thank you.

**Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments (action) 2:50:46 to 2:59:26 of 3:26:46**

**-Bryan Christensen, Dedicated Hunter Program Coordinator**

(See attachment 1)

**Questions from the RAC:**

Dave Black: Thank you. Do we have any questions from the RAC? Go ahead.

Mike Worthen: When you have the breakdown on the hours and the years they have to be done, that doesn't mean to say that the dedicated hunter gets into the program the first year and completes 16 hours, that's pretty optional of what hours he can complete during what year.

Bryan Christensen: That's exactly right.

Mike Worthen: As long as he gets the 32 at the end.

Bryan Christensen: Right. Yeah. And many dedicated hunters prefer to do all their hours in their first year. So they can do as many as they want that first year; they just won't be required to have that amount to obtain the first tag.

Rusty Aiken: Tell me again why you don't like the banking side of it the first year.

Bryan Christensen: Okay, there, that's an excellent question. Um, there are 2 main types of programs where we could do banking. The first one, and maybe I can back this up just a little bit. I started this position in December and since then that's all I've been able to think about is how do we make this work; because I really like it, I like the banking concept. And as we explored and explored it we came up with two ideas. One was to do a one year back, so essentially you would do your hours before you joined up, anticipate joining. And if your hours, if you joined, we would apply those hours to your COR. If you didn't those hours would be considered volunteer hours and they would basically just go away. We've discussed it with some different groups and some dedicated hunters and for the most part everybody seemed to be agreeable about that. It does have a draw back though. If you can imagine yourself maybe doing eight or ten, sixteen hours, and then not drawing; it's not the best feeling. Even though you may feel like that's what you should do anyway as a sportsman it still isn't the most favorable option to not have those hours count. And so the second question comes, well why not let it count for the next year, because by then you might be able to draw? Um, and it opens up a bigger field of indefinite banking. So you could bank hours this year, next year, the year after and then eventually draw in. Or maybe you're banking for ten years and then. I have a list here, and I don't know how in-depth you want me to go, but I've got about eight or ten things that start to become problematic when you open up a program like that. It changes the philosophy of the program where we really want people to join and do their service concurrent with kind of enjoying the reward of hunting three seasons. It can be problematic as far as programming and things like that. It also starts to beg questions of how early

can you start banking hours. Can you start when you're 8-years-old, even before you're allowed to hunt? Does it start when you're 12? Can you buy those hours in advance? So there's a whole lot of different things that create complications and some of them are good and some of them aren't favorable to either Division or the hunters. Does that answer your question sufficiently? Or too much or not enough?

Rusty Aiken: A little bit. So let me, so where are we going from? What has it been in the past? The hours? Yeah.

Bryan Christensen: Eight hours the first year to earn your, to get your first tag, and the conservation course; sixteen additional the second year, and then eight the third year. So what this essentially does, they have a lot of time to do their first 16 hours and then the following year they can do another 16, or like what was pointed out earlier, they can do 8 the first year, or 10,12, whatever they want. They are not limited.

Rusty Aiken: Some of the problems on some of the groups that do a lot of springtime things, free fishing days, banquets, those kind of things, and we're missing 1/3 of our dedicated hunters to help volunteer for those hours because they can't, they don't know if they're going to be a dedicated hunter until May. And a lot of those programs are in the springtime. So, you know the one proposal was just make it simple, one banking, one year, that first year they can bank the hours, they understand that they lose them if they don't draw so there's no, it's just like not drawing a tag. But it seems to me your 16 hours, you'll, it will probably (inaudible).

Dave Black: Yeah. I have a question but I'm going to save my comments for the comment section.

Bryan Christensen: Okay, if I can address just part of that. With the 16 hours, you know, if this program goes through we would have basically a one year timeframe in which it would take people to start jumping into those spring projects. Um, so this year, 2014 we may or may not see a dramatic change as far as spring projects, but 2015 it would open up all those people from 2014 to get in on springtime projects where as before it wouldn't do that. It's one year behind but it would open a lot of people up to do spring projects that otherwise wouldn't, they would wait until they knew if they could do it or not.

Dave Black: I have a question, and the question I already know the answer to, you've addressed it well. But I wanted to get it in the minutes. It seemed like this is something I've been watching for over a year. I've sent in letters addressing this. It is dear and near to me; I love the dedicated hunter program, it does a lot of good things. But there was a lot of confusion, even today, among Wildlife Board members, among leaders of sportsman's groups that have prepared an opinion. And many of those felt like they were coming today supporting a banking type of proposal from the DWR. So, again, you've clarified it but does this proposal include any banking hours for somebody that's applying their first year to do work prior to them receiving their notification?

Bryan Christensen: Okay, specifically no. This recommendation does not have a provision for banking hours prior to joining the dedicated hunter program.

Dave Black: Okay. Do we have any other questions from the RAC?

Rusty Aiken: The area where you said that they, on their third year they owe you hours? How do they get their third permit and still owe hours?

Bryan Christensen: Okay, that's a good question. Uh, they don't. They don't have their third permit; sometimes they don't have any of their permits. They've joined the program and didn't do any hours and . . .

Rusty Aiken: So it prevents them from entering again, the program, until they . . .

Bryan Christensen: Yeah. So if a dedicated hunter finishes the program but still owes hours they go on what is called an administrative hold, it prevents them from doing any applications for permits until those are cleared up. What we're really just hoping to do is give them an option to jump on a project which we would rather have, service hours, in lieu of just paying them off.

Dave Black: Go ahead Sam.

Sam Carpenter: How many of these hours can they buy?

Bryan Christensen: Residents can purchase 24 of 32; nonresidents may purchase all of the 32.

Dave Black: Okay, do we have any further questions from the RAC?

#### **Questions from the public:**

Dave Black: Do we have any questions from the audience?

None

#### **Comments from the public:**

Dave Black: Okay, we'll take the comments. I do have a comment card, just one from Paul Neimeyer.

Paul Niemeyer: Again, Paul Neimeyer. I keep the records for 2 of these conservation banquet committees, and I've talked to pretty much all of them and they would rather be able to bank hours starting January 1<sup>st</sup>, and if they don't draw then they're okay about that; well they just donate the hours. But they do want to start January 1<sup>st</sup>, and some of these banquets and different things they can count. And I think it's undersubscribed anyway isn't it? Isn't there more people right now, or less people drawing than there is, more people drawing than there is putting in? So it's undersubscribed anyway. But let these people, uh, you know Rusty was kind of alluding that, I think he's probably been around these banquets and stuff too. But let them bank those hours. Because, I mean these guys are the kinds of guys that are donating a ton of time anyway. But let them bank em from January and if they don't draw then they just give them up. That's our recommendation.

Dave Black: Thank you. I also have a comment card from Gene Boardman.

Gene Boardman: I've been showing up every year, I'm Gene Boardman. I've been showing up every year since this dedicated hunter program started to rally against it, and I'm still against it. And I would sure as heck like to see it go away. I've never killed a deer that was there because of the dedicated hunter program. I don't know that I've ever seen a deer that was there because of the dedicated hunter

program. But I've sure as hell give up a lot of tags to the dedicated hunter program. And this buying points, now if that isn't being able to purchase a, to purchase opportunity that the rest of us don't have, what in the hell is it? I think that this, you can get your dedicated hours without this dedicated hunter program. I think people will come out and do it. I think it's time to look for another way. But this idea that people can pay money and get to hunt three hunts while the rest of us can only hunt one is not what hunting in Utah ought to be all about. Thanks.

Dave Black: Thank you Gene. Bryce, do you want me to read your card or did you have a comment on this? Okay, with no further comment cards from the audience we'll see if there's comments from the RAC.

### **RAC Discussion and Vote:**

Dave Black: I'd like to make a comment if I could. I've personally been a strong supporter of the dedicated hunter program. I am a dedicated hunter. My wife is a dedicated hunter. But we also work with some groups in St. George where we do a kids fishing derby, fishing day. We have anywhere from 600 to 800 kids come on a Saturday. That activity could not happen without the support of dedicated hunters. Three years ago we started an additional day of fishing with handicapped kids. We've had to keep that very small allowing only 3 or 4 schools to come because it's hard to get dedicated hunters to come, or anybody to come on a work day when the kids are in school. We need dedicated hunters to make that happen. We are currently planning on a plan where we can have all the special needs kids in Washington County come on one day and fish. We cannot do that without dedicated hunters; that will not be successful without it. We need dedicated hunters. We, the group that I work with is in strong support of having some type of banking system because our programs are in April before they know. And I've, since this came out there's a third of the pool of people that I call and ask to come and help that don't come because they're waiting to draw and they can't bank their hours. And I think that, especially right now where everybody that puts in essentially is going to draw out, and they know that they're going to draw; let them come and work and support is what we need. I don't think that the plan right now addresses all the concerns. It does address some concerns that were brought up but it doesn't address the groups that need the hunters. Now it also mentioned our, the sportsman's groups, their banquets are in February and March, they need dedicated hunters for their programs to work as well and if they're losing 1/3 of the people to come they're going to suffer as well. And that's my comment on it is that you know we had a action item and what came back doesn't necessarily meet the goal that we were hoping to get from that action log item.

Dave Black: Is there any other comments? Okay, we're ready to entertain a motion on this item. Rusty?

Rusty Aiken: Yes, I'd like to make motion to accept the Division's recommendations with the exception of the banking hours. I'd like to see that they were able to bank hours from January 1 to May 30<sup>th</sup> when the applications are drawn.

Dave Black: Do we have a second on that motion?

Sam Carpenter: Second.

Dave Black: Okay, we have a second from Sam. Is there any discussion on that motion? All those in favor? It's unanimous.

**Rusty Aiken made the motion to accept the Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments as presented with the exception that applicants are allowed to bank hours from Jan 1 until the draw results are available. Sam Carpenter seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Dave Black: Okay, our last item is item number 10, which is the Oak Creek Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Management Plan, and that's by Dustin Schaible.

**Oak Creek Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Management Plan (action) -Dustin Schaible, Wildlife Biologist** 3:15:47 to 3:18:33 of 3:26:46

(See attachment 1)

**Questions from the RAC:**

Dave Black: Okay. Thank you. Do we have any questions from the RAC? Okay, Mike.

Mike Staheli: On this unit I see that there's about 40% private land. If it ever does reach a huntable population will private landowners get 40 % of the tags? I don't know how that works; I don't know on the statewide.

Dustin Schaible: Where the sheep habitat is on is actually it's all, 100 %, as I understand, is on the Forest Service; so where we expect sheep to be occupying. If they do get onto the private lands we have like depredation policy to handle that. We also have a policy and guideline if sheep get into domestic sheep, how to handle that. And that's how we'd address that. But in terms of permits, unless it was a depredation situation there's no program for that.

Kevin Bunnell: The landowner association program doesn't apply to once in a lifetime species.

Dave Black: Any other questions?

**Questions from the public:**

Dave Black: Do we have any questions in the audience?

None

**Comments from the public:**

Dave Black: I have no comment cards. Oh excuse me, you're right. And the Executive Board of the Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife support this action plan.

**RAC Discussion and Vote:**

Dave Black: Do we have any comments from the RAC? Sean.

Sean Kelly: Yeah, Dustin made the comment that which is true that pretty much the predominant amount

of habitat is going to be on forest. And we were asked to give a position letter. The man that was supposed to read it didn't show up but I guess I better read it so we get it on the record. It's addressed to Dave Black, Southern Region RAC Chair. (See attachment 2) It says, Dear Mr. Black, this letter is in reference to the Oak Creek Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Management Plan that has been proposed to set the framework for establishing bighorn sheep in Southern Utah. The Forest Service appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on this plan and proposed introduction of bighorn sheep into Southern Utah. The Forest Service made the following observations regarding this proposed plan. We acknowledge that if the proposed introduction is implemented it would occur on approximately 8% of the lands administered by the Fishlake National Forest, Fillmore Ranger District. 90 % is what the forestlands are on the entire unit, for clarification. What he's saying is that it will happen on the forest. The Fishlake National Forest has reviewed the land resource management plan and finds the proposed introduction to bighorn sheep is consistent with language contained within the plan which speaks of allowing for establishment of desirable species on sites that can supply the habitat needs of the species. The Forest Service has determined there are currently no sheep grazing on lands administered by the Forest Service in the Canyon Range, Forest, or the Fillmore Ranger District. There is adequate habitat for bighorn sheep along with cattle, deer, and elk currently grazing in the area. Based on the information above I concluded that approval of the Oak Creek Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Management Plan by the Wildlife Board, an introduction of bighorn sheep in the Canyon Range is not in conflict with the Fishlake land and resource management plan and the Forest Service supports this proposal. In closing we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments to this proposed plan and look forward to working cooperatively with the state in implementation phase of this project. We look forward to working with the Division in the future on any needed changes to the management plan based on natural resource condition monitoring. If you have questions it gives you the contact. It is signed Allan Rowley, Forest Supervisor.

Dave Black: Thank you Sean. Are there any other comments from the RAC? Okay, Clair.

Clair Woodbury: I think it's a fantastic idea. I'd love to see new introductions like this in the appropriate habitat, especially for a species like the bighorn sheep. It's been such an important part of the history of Utah, going back to the ancient inhabitants of this land. It was probably their primary prey. And as such I would propose that we accept the Division's recommendation on this.

Rusty Aiken: Second.

Dave Black: Okay, we have a motion and a second by Rusty. Is there any discussion on the motion? All those in favor? Unanimous.

**Clair Woodbury made the motion to accept the Oak Creek Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Management Plan as presented. Rusty Aiken seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Other Business**  
**-Dave Black, Chairman**

Dave Black: Thank you. That concludes item number 10. We do have one item of business. And I'll turn the time over to Kevin.

Kevin Bunnell: Just in reference to our next meeting on December 10<sup>th</sup>, I know it says on our agenda here that it's the Falconry Guidebook and Rule, there's actually several items that will be coming to us that night. And I'm just mentioning it now to make sure that there's support, that we have at least a quorum here. There will be several licensing, some changes to our licensing rule, we'll be dealing with our error and our variance rule which is how we deal with, you know, people when we've had, when there's been a mistake made by the Division. And also Scott will be back talking about some changes to the landowner association rules. So there will be plenty of items for us to deliberate over on that December meeting. So don't plan to go Christmas shopping, plan to be in Beaver that night.

Dave Black: You're just kidding? Rusty did you have a comment?

Rusty Aiken: I do have a comment. Um, I have a question on the application of the licenses. It's currently legitimate to apply for tags with one big game license. I don't know why they can't close that loophole. People are buying a license at the end of the, let's see at the end of the month in say 2012, in January, whenever the application period is, and then they can use that same license, it's just a current license and apply for 2013 permits. Can we fix that? Is that doable Kevin? Why do we allow that to happen?

Kevin Bunnell: Well um, you know we made the change, you know it was only 6 or 7 years ago now that we required them to have a license at all. And I don't know how you'd do it Rusty where you have, you know, essentially a two-month application period and a 365-day license. I guess I don't know how you would with the way we're, it's currently set up.

Rusty Aiken: Well just change the wording that to apply for 2014 you have to have a current 2014 license.

Kevin Bunnell: Well but if they bought their license in November or in March of 2013 that is a valid license still in February of 2014.

Rusty Aiken: Not if they don't draw, not if you don't draw. The out of state guys are doing it. I've got three buddies that are doing it.

Kevin Bunnell: It does, it does allow people to, it does allow you to apply twice on a single license. But you know what Rusty, the benefit that we've gotten by adding that in is worth letting people get, you know, double bang for it, to be honest with ya. It's been a great thing for revenue generation and everything else as it is.

Rusty Aiken: But you'd get more revenue. . .(off mic)

Kevin Bunnell: You would, but why be greedy? I understand what you're saying.

Brian Johnson: I make a motion to adjourn.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.**



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Fishlake National Forest  
Supervisor's Office  
Fax: (435) 896-9347

115 East 900 North  
Richfield, UT 84701  
Phone: (435) 896-9233

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File Code: 2610/2670

Date: November 6, 2013

Dave Black  
Southern Region RAC Chair  
2074 Princeton Circle  
St. George, UT 84790

Dear Mr. Black:

This letter is in reference to the Oak Creek Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Management Plan that has been proposed to set the framework for establishing bighorn sheep in Southern Utah. The Forest Service appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on this plan and proposed introduction of bighorn sheep into Southern Utah. The Forest Service has made the following observations regarding this proposed plan.

- We acknowledge that if the proposed introduction is implemented it would occur on approximately 8 % of the lands administered by the Fishlake National Forest, Fillmore Ranger District.
- The Fishlake National Forest has reviewed the Land and Resource Management Plan and finds that the proposed introduction of bighorn sheep is consistent with language contained within the plan which speaks to "allowing for the establishment of desirable species on sites that can supply the habitat needs of the species".
- The Forest Service has determined that there are currently no sheep grazing on lands administered by the Forest Service in the Canyon Range portion of the Fillmore Ranger District.
- There is adequate habitat for bighorn sheep along with the cattle, deer, and elk currently grazing in the area.

Based on the information above, I have concluded that approval of the Oak Creek Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Management Plan by the Wildlife Board and introduction of bighorn sheep in the Canyon Range is not in conflict with the Fishlake Land and Resource Management Plan and the Forest Service supports this proposal.

In closing, we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments to this proposed plan and look forward to working cooperatively with the State in the implementation phase of this project. We look forward to working with the Division in the future on any needed changes to the management plan based on natural resource condition monitoring. If you have questions please contact Ron Rodriguez at 435-865-3732, or myself at 435-896-1001.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Allen Rowley*  
ALLEN ROWLEY  
Forest Supervisor



**Southeast Region Advisory Council  
John Wesley Powell Museum  
1765 E. Main  
Green River, Utah  
November 13, 2013**

*Motion Summary*

**Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION:** To accept the agenda and minutes as written  
Passed unanimously

**Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION:** To approve the minutes from our 7-13-13 RAC meeting.  
Passed unanimously

**Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION:** To approve the minutes from our 9-11-13 RAC meeting.  
Passed unanimously

**Bucks, Bulls and OIAL 2014 Season Dates and Application Timeline**

**MOTION:** To accept the Bucks, Bulls and OIAL 2014 Season Dates and Application Timeline as presented, except that the Division increase predator control at mule deer release sites with the DWR determining the size of the expanded predator treatment area.

Passed with a majority vote: 7 to 1 with one opposing vote cast by Wayne Hoskisson

**CWMU Management Plans and Permit Numbers for 2014**

**MOTION:** To accept CWMU Management Plans and Permit Numbers for 2014 as presented.

Passed unanimously

**Landowners Permit Numbers for 2014**

**MOTION:** To accept Landowners Permit Numbers for 2014 as presented.

Passed unanimously

**Utah Hunter Mentoring Program**

**MOTION:** To accept the Utah Hunter Mentoring Program as presented.

Passed unanimously

**Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments**

**MOTION:** To accept Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments as presented.

Passed unanimously

**Southeast Region Advisory Council  
John Wesley Powell Museum  
1765 E. Main  
Green River, Utah**

**November 13, 2013 6:30 p.m.**

***Members Present***

***Members Absent***

**Kevin Albrecht, Chairman, USFS**

**Seth Allred, At Large  
Sue Bellagamba, Environmental**

**Blair Eastman, Agriculture  
Trisha Hedin, Sportsperson**

**Jeff Horrocks, Elected Official**

**Wayne Hoskisson, Environmental**

**Todd Huntington,  
At Large &  
Vice Chair**

**Karl Ivory, BLM representative  
Derris Jones, Sportsmen**

**Darrel Mecham, Sportsmen**

**Christine Micoz, At Large  
Charlie Tracy, Agriculture  
Chris Wood, Regional Supervisor**

**Others Present**

**Dr. Mike King**

- 
- 1) **Welcome, RAC introductions and RAC Procedure**  
**-Kevin Albrecht, Chairman**

**We are waiting on for a phone call so we can approve the minutes and agenda. But let's go ahead and give a Regional update while we wait then we will go back and approve the agenda and minutes.**

**Kevin Albrecht- Thank you Chris for the regional update. Let's go ahead and approve the agenda.**

**Any discussion on that? Or entertain a motion?**

**Kevin Albrecht- We actually have two sets of minutes that need to be approved. We will approve the minutes from the last meeting which would have been from the aquatics section. Do we have any discussion on that? Or entertain a motion.**

**Kevin Albrecht- At our last meeting we did not pass the minutes from the August meeting. So I will open that up to any discussion?**

**Wayne Hoskisson- I made the motion to postpone it. I reviewed the minutes and**

they are well done.

Kevin Albrecht- Wayne hadn't had time to read those but has now and they look good so I will entertain them as well.

Wayne Hoskisson- Make the motion to approve those minutes.

Blair Eastman- I second that.

Kevin Albrecht- Passed unanimously

Kevin Albrecht- Todd Huntington attended the wildlife board meeting and was going to give the update but on his way here he had truck issues. So Chris will give the Wildlife Board update. He got some notes from Mike King. So it will just be a quick overview from the wildlife board meeting.

2) Approval of the Agenda (Action)

-Kevin Albrecht, Chairman

**VOTING**

Motion was made by Blair Eastman to approve the agenda as printed

Seconded by Chris Micoz

Motion passed unanimously

Approval of the Minutes (Action)

-Kevin Albrecht, Chairman

Blair Eastman approval of agenda

Chris Micoz- Second the motion

**VOTING**

Motion was made by Karl Ivory to approve the minutes of the September 11 meeting.

Seconded by Blair Eastman

Motion passed unanimously

3) Wildlife Board Meeting Update

-by Chris Wood, Regional Supervisor

Main discussion was fishing regulations for next year. The wildlife board approved the proposal as proposed unanimously. They also made a few motions regarding two and three day possession limits. The division's recommendation was to increase it to a two day possession limit except for in a few waters. Strawberry being one of them and Flaming Gorge. They ended up approving the division's recommendations the two day possession limits. They also made a motion that the next survey that the

division does regarding fisheries. That they include questions concerning the three day possession limit. The process fish I order to obtain public input on their thoughts on the three day possession limit and the rule and regulations regarding processed fish. There was a presentation about the establishment of the leased chub and the refuge populations and that was passed unanimously. And there were some conservation audit presentations and those also passed unanimously.

#### Questions from the RAC

No questions

#### Questions from the Public

No Questions

#### Comments from the Public

No Comments

#### RAC Discussion

No RAC Discussion

#### 4) Regional Update

-Chris Wood, Regional Supervisor

Chris Wood- We have had a very busy fall and a very good fall. Congratulations Trish on the elk. So a quick update on some personnel changes in our region. We have a new Aquatic invasive species Coordinator Biologist Nathan Owens. He came to us late this summer. Replaces a guy named Mike who has left us to go take a similar position in Minnesota. We are glad to have Nate on. You all know Justin Shannon he was our wildlife manager in this region for the last several years. He has had a promotion. He is now our big game coordinator state wide. He will be presenting later on today. We are excited to see what he can do at a state wide level. Replacing him for at least a year because Justin is on a one-year career mobility. Guy Wallace is replacing him. Guy has worked in this region for 31 years. We are excited to have Guy in this new role as a leader of the wildlife section. We have a lot to learn from him . We lost Devin Christensen one of Carbon County Conservation Officer's. He has moved up to Weber County. So that position is currently vacant. With no replacement in sight. We do have a new Emery County Officer James Thomas. He just came out of POST. SO he is brand new conservation officer. He is living in Castle Dale I do believe. So we are excited to have him and have that area filled. Looks like also we are going to be able to fill the Bullfrog District. Which will be good for the resources at Lake Powell and for the Henry Mountains. It is hard to find officer's that want to live in Bullfrog because it is isolated. People with families

don't want to live there. We have found a guy who wants to go to Bullfrog. So we are hoping to fill that position very soon. TJ was an officer in Moab for 7 or 8 years I believe. He went to the Grand County Sheriff's office for awhile and now he is back for the Division of Wildlife, we are glad to have him and to have that area covered as well. Aquatics Section has wrapped up their surveys a few weeks ago. They did Gill netting in the various reservoirs in our region. They found some really cool things. They caught a big Tiger trout in the nets up at Scofield Reservoir along with some really big Cutthroat. Out of Electric Lake they got a 10" Kokane which was exciting because they had planted I think 4" Kokane's back in May and September they grew 6" and appear to be doing well. Joe's Valley they got several large Splakes and the tiger muskies that are approaching the 40" mark. On a side note at the Logan Fisheries experiment station there were some mud snails that were found which is not a good thing. The good news is they were found in areas outside of the Broad stock and so that broad stock is protected. They are going to do whatever they can to clean up the mud snails. The Eagan Hatchery we are just finishing up some of the decontamination of the cold water bacterial disease that was found there. Conservation outreach has been busy. We have had several of events that have and that will happen this fall. We had a Youth Pheasant hunt at Desert Lake. We had 20 kid's sign up. You have to sign up ahead of time to participate because there is a big demand for that and they filled up fairly quickly and every youth that was out there was successful and was able to take a pheasant home. This weekend at Nash Wash we have our Mule Deer watch. We are capping that at 25 people and it is through reservations through Brent. I believe that is full as well. On December 7<sup>th</sup> we have our annual Big Horn Sheep watch it will be here in Green river. It has been in Moab in the past but the last few years we have done it in Green river. We have a much higher viewing. We know where the sheep are and will be able to view a lot more sheep. So that will be nice. IN the middle of this month we have a Green river shooting park sports event. A turkey Shoot or a trap shoot. The winner wins a turkey. Green river shooting park is kind of in construction and they are wrapping that facility up. There was initially going to be a grand opening but don't think they are quite at that point yet. Fall is a busy time of year for the habitat section where they are doing habitat restoration projects all over the region and in every county. They are doing everything from restoring aspen communities in higher elevations on Private lands and public lands to creating building dams for the Gunnison Sage Grouse in Monticello for creating habitat areas for their brooding areas. Also a lot of big game winter range work moving pinion and juniper by various methods whether it be by a bull hog that mechanically mulches the pinion and juniper trees or using chainsaw crews to cut down pinion and juniper trees that are encroaching on the sage brush benches. A lot of aerial seeding going on in all of these projects to where we want to increase the under story. We are planting a variety of grasses and forbs and shrubs and all kinds of things that both livestock and wildlife like to eat. Doing a lot of great things and a lot of partnership this type of projects. BLM, Forest Service, Private Land Owner's, even energy companies all teaming together to get this work done. Busy time of year for Law enforcement. Has these hunts go on we always have cases to investigate and to follow leads on. In our region there have been more than 23 cases since September 1<sup>st</sup>. These are usually split between elk and

deer. They have spent a lot time on Trespass complaints and after the hunts are over they will spend the winter months patrolling the winter ranges and doing work out there. There were some fishermen that were cleaning out there fish at Lake Powell when a park ranger saw that they had caught 90 fish over their limit. And they were seized and charges are pending. Wildlife section has had CWD stations both in the La Sals and in Wellington. The big exciting thing for us this fall is pheasants. Director's office did something that hasn't been done in the past. We usually release pheasants but not to this magnitude. From a state wide level we bought 12,000 pheasants. And we are releasing them before the weekend so Thursday or Friday at various locations throughout the entire state. In our region we have them at Desert Lake WFMA and our Huntington WMA. Then at various walk in access areas both in Green river and over by Hanksville. The pheasant opportunities are very incredible. The pheasant opportunities we have this fall and people are really excited about it. You pull up on of our WMA's and there is 12-15 vehicles parked there which is unheard of at some of these smaller WMA's and hunters are really excited about the opportunity to hunt pheasants. We have a web site too. We show where those pheasant release areas are and so we can on there on figure out where you can hunt pheasants for the rest of this month. We had the intial relaease right before pheasant season started and then we are doing every single week throught he entire Month. They are busy doing thtas. Big hOrn sheep classifications are going to begin this month and go into December and then Big horn sheep flights will happen this month and then next month as well. That is all I have got. I will take any questions if there is any.

### Questions from the RAC

Derris Jones- What was the trend on the check stations. Deer Harvest?

Chris Wood- We heard that the hunts were up a little bit from last year. Which is pretty surprising considering it was a full moon and warm weather and the conditions that we had weren't optimal for Mule deer hunting. The check stations reported that a little bit of increase from last year and the previous years.

Karl Ivory- on the CWD, have you run into many deer with chronic wasting disease with the check stations?

Chris Wood- I haven't seen very many or what the results are for this year. Justin does know?

Justin Shannon- Just one on the Manti is all that I know.

Chris Wood – So just one on the Manti is the only one that we know of.

Karl Ivory- Ok

### Questions from the Public

No Questions

### Comments from the Public

No Comments

**RAC Discussion**

- 5) **Bucks, Bulls and OIAL 2014 Season Dates and Application Deadline (Action)**  
-Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator  
Date changes for General season Deer  
(Presentation)

**Kevin Albrecht- We will first to questions from the RAC. Then we will go from questions from the audience and then after that we will go to comments from the audience. But then again if you have any comments, please come up this microphone. We have two one for the division and one for the public. If you're representing a group it will be a five min. to present. Chris will keep time and if you're representing yourself you will have three min. and then after that time we will go back to comments from the RAC. Any Questions from the RAC?**

**Questions from the RAC**

**Chris Micoz- on the splitting the Range creek Big horn Sheep unit, that makes that hunt except for the antelope island hunt the shortest hunt for all of them. Don't you think that is a disadvantage? That is a two week hunt instead of a thirty day which most of the other's are a minimum thirty. Would it be better to extend the hunt maybe spread the hunters out?**

**Justin Shannon-That can be an option if the RAC wants to go that way. The reason that we looked at two weeks is most of the hunters. I can't remember, Brad help me out on the dates exactly. I think most of the big horn hunters were only hunting seven or eight days regardless on this.**

**Chris Micoz- We have hunted and hunted it 18.**

**Justin Shannon- there is exception to that. But what we were trying to avoid with it. And you are right one of the tradeoffs is the shortened hunt. But what we're trying to do is prevent guys from shooting rams out from each other. And if you feel that two weeks isn't enough, we can recommend that. What we were trying to accomplish is not to certainly restrict guys to where they are two squished in there and if the RAC is not comfortable with it.**

**Chris Micoz- well with an OIAL hunt and you compare that the length of the hunts with all of the other units. That is pretty short.**

**Justin Shannon- I am not disagreeing with you. It is. What we are trying to do is just still work within that big horn sheep time frame and we felt like 15 days was**

pretty adequate for most of the sheep hunters and I am sure there is going to fill differently.

Kevin Albrecht- Can elaborate a little bit more. One will go the first two weeks and one will go the second and how does that work? Will it alternate or how do you determine?

Justin Shannon- What we have tried to do is just include as many weekends as we can on that hunt and with this time I think this hunt or the people that hunt the first 15 days will get the 3 weekends on it. Is that right? Brad how did that work?

Brad Crompton- That is right the first hunt will get three weekends the second hunt will get two weekends.

Justin Shannon- I was just doing the math in my head and thought three weekends and 15 days. But it does because it starts on a weekend.

Kevin Albrecht- And so will that lets say the Nine mile always be first and the other would be second or will that alternate or is there an advantage there or?

Justin Shannon- There could be. That is something we will have to work through and I mean if the RAC feels that 3 weeks is more appropriate we are open to that.

The only thing that we really have is that December. Well these hunts generally close on November 30<sup>th</sup> so that way we can survey that first week in December while these animals are still rutting somewhat. I don't how comfortable we would be taking further into December.

Chris Micoz- would you consider overlapping a week?

Justin Shannon- Those are options. Or not all if the RAC feels like it was fine the way that we had it, then that's fine too. What we are trying to do is so that, that unit can up to 20 hunters at a time. So we were just trying to separate that as best as we can.

Chris Micoz- and there are some hunters that will go in and take their sheep right off the get go. So maybe by overlapping it, because traditionally some of the better hunting is towards the end of the hunt I think.

Justin Shannon-Yeah.

Karl Ivory- do you see any change in hunters applying for an earlier or later hunt? Or any kind of point creep or anything like that. Or is that going to at a quote or maybe you won't know?

Justin Shannon- It is interesting because when we talked to members of FANSF and some the sportsman that are into big horn sheep hunting. They felt like it may have some advantage because it is a separate hunt, it splits it out and it forces guys to use their points. But how that is all going to shake out? I don't know. We have a set amount of permits. To speculate on who is going to in for what, that is hard to do. But there is a couple schools of thoughts on it. One is, you force guys to choose and it might open up a little bit better drawing odds on the one than the other. I don't know if that is going to the case or not though.

Kevin Albrecht- on the dedicated hunter drawing, is that held by the big game application service that does everything or is that done by the division?

Justin Shannon- No, Bryan corrects me if I am wrong. But essentially we have one contract out of Nevada for all of our applications. And whether it is big game or whatever. I think they do all the same. Is that correct?

Kevin Albrecht-that is the one question that I had is if we keep hearing that by the

time people find out on their dedicated hunter's that it is hard to get those hours done and I think that is addressed in the dedicated hunter. I was just wondering if that couldn't be done like during the bear application or something done earlier during that drawing to be able to provide for that and give people more time to get there dedicated hunter hours on the ground.

Justin Shannon- I have not given that any consideration. I don't know if I can speak to that. Bryan can you?

Bryan Christensen- I don't want to give away too much of what I was going to say later or everybody will leave. It is a really good question. It has been on everybody's mind since they were joined together. Right now the way dedicated hunter and big game is tied together they really mesh. The way that the drawing functions, it has to figure out the dedicated hunter stuff before it can go into the general hunting permits that go through the drawing. Would it be cool to have it separated someday? Like it use too? Yes. But it would require a whole new structure on how we do permits through the drawing.

Derris Jones- what is the difference on the buck doe ratio between north and south Book cliffs?

Justin Shannon- off the top of my head, I think on the south we are about 37? Is that right Brad? Buck to doe ratios on the north vs. south. I know the north was 27.

What are we on the south? And most years we were 10 buck to doe difference or greater.

Brad Crompton- 27 vs. 37 on the south

Derris Jones- LOA permits on the Book cliffs. Would they have to choose North or South? Or do they get either or?

Justin Shannon- as you know we put a committee together when we made this recommendation and we invited the LOA from the north and the south along with a lot of sportsman that were interested in how we hunt the Book cliffs. I remember at the meeting the comment that we asked then about this very thing. I remember the comment that they made back was that we will make it work. I think they we were going to alter them by laws to make it work. But I can't remember where that landed. Brad do you have any inside on that?

Brad Crompton- there current by laws talk about a third of the permits going to the south. They were going to try and keep that relationship there. Whatever their tags or a third of those total LOA tags would go to the south during that rifle hunt.

Derris Jones- So a third of the tags would be on the south Book cliffs and then two thirds would go to the north Book cliffs?

Brad Crompton- That is correct. Which is slightly higher than we'll probably end up doing on the public land in the proclamation? The proportion might be slightly different than that. That is just based on the Land owners that are involved the proportion of land that's in the south vs. the north and historically deer the total deer numbers. Two thirds of the herds are on the north vs. the south.

Derris Jones-on the statewide Mule deer transplant, you show that the SE region showed Nine mile Range creek and Elk Ridge. But on the release areas Elk Ridge isn't on there.

Justin Shannon- In my presentation I apologized for that. In the handout that the RAC's were given, on the map it has Elk Ridge depicted and then on the handout on

the table on the back it was an error. We left Elk Ridge off. That has since been updated for the wildlife board and we are going to present that to them at the board. So Elk Ridge is on the table as a release sight.

Derris Jones- Is there a specific area on the Elk Ridge that you're going to release them?

Justin Shannon- Yes, some of the areas were Cedar Mesa, Lower lost park, Deer flats

Derris Jones- So ,South Elk Ridge?

Justin Shannon- Yes. Some of those areas where we have winter range that just don't have a lot of deer in them but historically did. So we thought that would be a good release sight.

Kevin Albrecht-Any others? Questions from the audience?

### Questions from the Public

No questions from the public

### Comments from the Public

Stan Baker with MDF- Thank you for the opportunity to address the regional advisory council on this subject of mauldering the UDWR's statewide management plan for Mule Deer. Trapping and translocation of big game has been used by wildlife managers to achieve many objectives. Including restoring wildlife populations to historical ranges, augmenting populations at low densities, and reducing over populations. Examples of successful trap and translocation programs include the restoration of elk, pronghorn, big horn sheep and wild turkey's across North America during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Restoration of Mule deer through translocation has been used to bring populations back to historical ranges in Texas and Mexico. MDF believes that one of the keys to reversing the decline of Mule deer in Utah and throughout the historic ranges for state wildlife agency's to finally find the missing component which will result in the ability to successfully transplant Mule deer. MDF applauds the current trap and transplants study currently under way in southern Utah. MDF believes that the current study has answered several important questions that will aid in insuring that future transplants will be more successful. MDF has contributed several million dollars through the conservation tag program and improving Mule deer habitats statewide. We believe that these habitat projects have had a major impact on one of the factors involved in the declining Mule deer populations. The loss of habitat. No other western state has been as aggressive as the state of Utah in restoring habitat. We ask that the RAC's recommend the DWR add to the amendment that predator control occur prior to any transplant operation. Primarily on coyote's and cougars. If this is not the appropriate place then we would recommend it to be added to each individual

**transplant proposal. Managers should develop a trap and translocation management plan that includes a monitoring component to determine the effectiveness of the program. The more information that is available to managers the more successful will be the transplants. MDF supports the amendment and stands ready to provide volunteers to aid the DWR in the trapping and transport to the release sights. Thank you.**

**Derris Jones- On your predator management request do you want something more severe than the predator management program that we have currently or particular herd units that are under predator management? Or is that sufficient predator management?**

**Sam Baker with MDF- We are asking for specific predator control in those areas that are being identified for the transplants.**

**Derris Jones- so you want to target the exact release sights, certain radius around whatever release sight they pick to release.**

**Trisha Hedin- Would you want to add Bear into that or are specifically targeting coyotes and lions?**

**Sam Baker- well at this time I think we are targeting coyotes and cougars. I think there is some opportunities' to add bear on some of the units. But leave that up to DWR's objective on that.**

**Kevin Albrecht- Just a reminder when we have a comment please come up to the mic. All of the minutes are recorded and that will help make sure that we ensure that Brent is able to get all of the comments.**

**Kevin Albrecht- One question I have for MDF is that I know the translocation that is currently on going there has been a very big expense in following the deer, and I was just wondering if MDF will be providing any dollars to the division for that. The collaring on the translocation?**

**Sam Baker with MDF- I would have to assume so. I think we are very supportive of all of the efforts involved in that and we the dollars to provide that. So would assume so.**

**Troy Justesen SFW- We would like to just say that we support the Division's recommendation here and just speaking a little bit on the transplant, we support MDF's recommendation as kind of on the predators. One thing we have found out on this transplant that we have done on the Parowan front and moving them up to the Pahvant is they went in prior to releasing those deer and they did fly it and they did kill some coyotes what not, but we feel that it has to be more intensive. As you go through and look at that study out of the several or hundred deer transplant and we have only lost two or three to transplant miopothy. Which beforehand we were always told that they die during transplant and that proved that wrong. The majority of the deer that we have lost have been to coyotes, cougars and whatever. So to make these more successful it will be extremely important to go in and watch these areas that are identified to go in and clean the predators' out. And give these deer an opportunity to get adjusted and I think we will be more successful. But we applaud the division's working towards this. Thank You**

**Kevin Albrecht- o.k. that is all of the comment cards that I have. Is there anybody else that has any comments from the public?**

## RAC Discussion

**Charlie Tracy-** How successful is it to take a deer from the Wasatch front that has been eating on the golf course somewhere and then putting him out on the middle of Cedar Mesa? I mean do they adapt to that pretty quickly?

**Justin Shannon-** the short answer is to that is we don't know. A reason that we don't know is I can get into the biology if you would like. Essentially what you have is deer that are living on this high nutritional plan that are living off of Rose hips and oriental plants and things like that and you take them out to a winter range full of sage brush. That is going to be a transition for them and I don't know how well that they would do at that. The bacteria in their stomachs are going to have to adjust and that's not an easy process for these animals. But do we have data on that in Utah? No we don't. I can't sight studies of deer that we moved in 1995 or something like that and here are the success rates and here were the limiting factors. We haven't done that and I recognize that transplanting deer is opening a new door and some new opportunity's and as we do this we are going to try and learn from it as much as we can. There is some problems with what you are suggesting we don't have data to say one way or another. What the survival rates would be.

**Charlie Tracy-** who would do the predator control? Would it be you guys or would it be?

**Justin Shannon-** our predator program right now, I mean for coyotes we have really opened that up for the public with bounties and even some contracts and different things like that. We have a really good relationship working relationship with wildlife services. We can target drainages and areas like that if needs be. That is always an option. But as far as a biologist going out, no probably not.

**Charlie Tracy-** ok

**Kevin Albrecht-** I think one of the success in the translocation that was done earlier was that they found two units that are in my mind that are several hundreds of miles away that are very similar and the parrell in front that those deer will go down a fence off of I-15 but they move in the summer back up on the mountain range and where they are trans located down on near holding. Very similar habitat to where they winter right near I-15 they are fenced off and they move back up on the mountain in the summer that is real close and I think that as the division moves forward that if there is a lot of thought in to those similarities I think the success rates wil go up. But like Justin says that a deer that is on the golf course may not do so well on the Arizona strip.

**Justin Shannon-** If we are going to transplant deer then we want them to have the best chance that they have and that is why we didn't pick one or two release sights because we wanted some on the west desert , we wanted some in SE Utah, some on the Wasatch Range. Just to give it variety so that way we can match if we are taking deer off of the Antelope Island what unit is a good fit to release these things so that is what we are going to try to mesh. So these release sights we won't take deer to all of them, but it will try to be the best fit we can.

**Derris Jones-** are the captured deer going to be mostly females or just whatever you can catch in the drop net.

**Justin Shannon-** I think it will depend the situation. Like if we are trying to remove

deer off of Antelope Island we will certainly target the females. The reproductive, the most reproductive portion of that population but if it is interesting I think we are going onto a social change right now, where lethally removing deer isn't always an option like it might have been 15 years ago and so I think if we get into town settings and urban settings I think we the what we can take whether they are males or females. But if it trying to reduce populations on a winter range we will probably focus more on females.

Derris Jones- The Parowan front transplant was it primarily females?

Justin Shannon- Yes

Wayne Hoskisson- Do you have any studies that indicate the predator control influences the successful transplant?

Justin Shannon- the short answer is we don't have a lot of data on transplant success in Utah at all. We have done some of it throughout the history of our agency. It is not well documented and so in Utah no. I would have to say we don't have good data on that. As it was mentioned early on the Parowan front we did some targeted removal of coyotes and we have the survival rates of those deer thus far. But that is one study and one time and place. I think as we do this we are going to get better at this and learn some more. But no I don't have those results.

Justin Shannon- One thing that we do know is that the deer that we did move up to the Parowan front a good majority of those were killed by predators. Some of that cause for specific mortality but that is about it.

Wayne Hoskisson- was that mortality greater than the regular deer?

Justin Shannon- what we did in the approach we took is that we radio collared the transplanted deer then we radio collared a bunch of resident deer that were there. The survival rates on the resident deer were much higher and then the cause of mortality on the Trans located deer was predator related.

Kevin Albrecht- so that we have a motion on the table for the MDF that we have an active predator management before the trans location on those deer. And they also ask that the division continue to color those trans-located deer. So if someone is thinking of a motion maybe think of those.

Derris Jones- before we get to a motion I would like to get more of philosophical discussion on the splitting of the Book cliffs. What is the buck doe ratio between the north and south Manti?

Brad Crompton- Not very much. On the west side tends to be a bit lower. If, that is what you're getting at?

Derris Jones- so if you divide east and west instead of north and south.

Brad Crompton- there is three different biologist doing three different districts so I think last year if I recall I was 18 and the southern was 16 and the west side 13 or 14.

Derris Jones- I just want to get at is splitting the Book cliffs a regional boundary or a herd unit boundary?

Brad Crompton- I think is more directed to ass the access is a lot better. Your deer are very successful on the north side. I think it is disproportional harvest that goes north. Is that what you're getting at?

Derris Jones- I just want to make sure that if we do this split, is next year is someone going to come in and say boy the south elk ridge doesn't have near the bucks as

north elk ridge so let's divide this unit one more time into two separate sub-units and so we can distribute the hunters.

Brad Crompton-That's fair

Derris Jones- and now that we are kind of a limited entry essentially state wide on deer , where is it ever going to end if we open that door.

Brad Crompton- that is a fair question

Derris Jones- I was in on that committee that talked about this and I guess I wasn't quick enough to comprehend what was going to have this discussion at that meeting. I am just little concerned that if we knee jerk react because there is more bucks on side of the road than the other side of the road. And if it seems to me that if we give hunters a chance and I think we are stationing to see it already. Two years ago I hunted the Book cliffs and this year I hunted the Book cliffs there is a lot more hunters on the south this year than there was two years ago. I think the hunters are realizing that hunting is better and there is more bucks on the south Book Cliffs so more hunters came over and are we doing this big manipulation of splitting units for no reason. I mean a couple more years are we going to be saying we got more bucks on the north now because there are more hunters on the south end. Because the word is out that there are more bucks on the south end.

Brad Crompton- it certainly could be the case can't forecast the future. And there is a simpler way we could just adjust the overall tags on the Book cliffs one way or another but they are just as consistent the economy and you know the terrain. It just does to the fact that most of those deer are not in migration and in terrain that is accessible. Because there is no roads there.

Derris Jones- I guess my question to the division is do you guys have any concern that if we split the Book cliffs that next year that we will be splitting Mount Hellors off of Mount Helen because there isn't are as many bucks over there. And all of the hunters are.

Brad Crompton- it does open a can of worms. We were directed by the wildlife board to look at this and that is what we did. And this is what the committee came up with. But it does open a can of worms.

Derris Jones- Thanks Brad.

Trisha Hedin- Can we talk about the season dates for a little bit? Are you ok with that? I am just going to make some comments and I will kind of stay in the realm of elk but... I guess I did a little bit of research on just why we are not somewhat aligned to other western states as far as our season dates go. I am just concerned with our archery season getting pushed farther and farther back into august. I think we start losing opportunity and I also just think it is a concern in the fact that you really going to lose more animals. It is a concern when it is that hot, being able to get an animal out. In condition is difficult. And you're not just into the rut at all, I mean they are just barely starting to rut at the end of that season. You look at other western states the archery season is predominately in September and it is followed by muzzleloader and then any weapon and why we go from archery to any weapon to muzzleloader I wasn't around when that decision was made, so maybe somebody can explain that to me? I am just looking at for example Nevada and Arizona and yes archery is predominately in September, muzzleloader is maybe at the end of September the being of October and then you have any weapon. You know in just

looking at what is more difficult you really need to give the advantage to the weapon that is the most difficult to obtain an animal. That means putting archery within the rut. So I am just making some general comments and it would be great if you guys give me some back ground as to why any weapon is before muzzleloader.

Justin Shannon- I know when we rewrote the state wide elk plan, which I think was three years ago, I think we are making recommendations for our fourth year. There was a lot of conversation about hunting around the rut and it was interesting because I don't like to think of a hunter's as archer's , muzzleloaders or rifles but if you categorize them that way everybody wanted a piece of the pie. There were discussions about in Utah that it so difficult to draw a permit that if you do it with a rifle. In that committee it was very collective and it was statewide all of the interest were present and that is just where it landed with the give and take that goes on those types of committee's this isn't new this came up last night about if we should even be hunting in the rut? And so a lot of good discussion with it, but I think those decisions are best made with the statewide elk plan. Which really will be coming up in two years? I know that doesn't answer all of your questions but it landed where it did because of the public process and the public involvement. Do you have anything to add to that?

Kevin Albrecht- Just a little history before we went with the 29 unit for the deer actually the division went out with a survey to look at and to really open up all of the hunt dates, not just elk, mule deer and the division went through a really big effort and was really coming close to changing some of the archery dates, combining them with the deer and the spike hunt and a whole bunch of big effort. But it all come together right when the 29 units and director Karpowitz was worried to all of these really big decisions converge at one time. And so those decisions where tabled. But there was a lot of effort done a lot of thought into kind of maybe moving a little bit towards what some of the western states were doing and a lot of thought was there. I don't know if that will in the mule deer or maybe the elk plans if that will ever surface again. But I know there was a lot of discussion and talk on surveys and maybe doing that. I just don't know.

Justin Shannon- I don't know if we have a set date on when we are going to revisit that but it comes up quite often and I know in that public process, we even held open houses and things like that to come and tell us what you think of these dates and taking it through the RACS. From recollection it was all over the board. you would have one person stand up and say that we need archery in the rut and then the next person said no way. And we never really tied that up with a bow it was just informational at that point, and a lot of interest.

Kevin Albrecht- Can you talk about hope that works and about the calendar and how it moves up one day?

Justin Shannon- Essentially what we are trying to do is, I have always thought of Utah hunting as you have your rifle hunt that third week end of October for the any weapon. And that kind of dictates everything else on it. So you are going to have variation four or five days either way. On certain hunts so I think some of these archery hunts have been august 14 to the 18<sup>th</sup> or right in there starting and ending. It doesn't vary much from that week. Even with what Kevin was talking about we even discussed firm dates. Should it always start on august 15<sup>th</sup> or whatever? There

was a lot of good discussion but it never really settled anywhere.

**Kevin Albrecht-**any other discussion? We are ready for a motion

**Charlie Tracy-Derris** what do you want to say about your Book Cliffs thing?

**Derris Jones-** I guess I am ok with splitting it as long as the LOA keeps their word that they will split their permits somehow too. I don't think it is fair that if the LOA has permits and they can hunt either or both sides. I just think that is fair. But if and we are kind of at their mercy because they just get a lot of vouchers. I guess time will tell we will see how they distribute them and go from there. I really think it will take care of its self. But being I was part of the committee and agreed with what is this recommendation here I would still support splitting the north and south Book Cliffs.

**Kevin Albrecht-** I would like to mention before that a motion is made is that I guess in being a wildlife biologist I like to read a lot of studies and follow the biological side and so this mule deer translocation is something that I have been very interested in and have followed very closely and Troy Justesen talked about it a little bit but The deer myopathy that has always been thought to be a really big issue actually was very little mortality in this translocation. The most of it did come from predators' and so I think the proposal from the MDF holds a lot of validity on so I think that in giving or if the division is going to put the dollars into moving the deer that I think that needs to be a real big focus to give the best effort up front that we can to help those deer survive. That is just a thought.

**Wayne Hoskisson-** I have a comment on that I am general oppose to predator management. And there has been a study done in Utah by Dr. Beshda a recently retired professor of biology. On mule deer in Zion National Park and what they found is with the absent of cougar the deer actually destroyed habitat, and, so the deer where there but not doing well. But where there were cougar the habitat was good and the deer were doing fine too. The deer population was probably not so bad they impacted by the predators. So part of that problem is just that you have got new animals in a new place and that is the same problem you will find with bear. You kill off bears and new bears move in and they become problem bears. So if you are really looking at a habitat as a way of managing animals, That really has to be prime and so manipulating predators is just not in the long run is not a suitable way to do that.

**Kevin Albrecht-** in stating what I did, I agree to have healthy mule deer populations you have got to have the habitat and it is just not all predators. But my or what I was wanting to state was that you are exactly right and in these deer being trans located they are trying to get their bearings they don't know where security cover is and they don't know where those travel corridors are. So they are trying to learn what those resident deer already know so in any help that we can give them for a short period until they learn those movements and those characteristics of that habitat I think this will be a short term thing to help them get established o the ground.

**Derris Jones-** How big of a radius did the deer on the Pahvaunt when placed there, did they fairly localize or did they spread out like popcorn in a popcorn machine? Or what did they do?

**Justin Shannon-** You have both, you had some that took off and were difficult to

find and still are. And then you had some that stuck around. You kind of hear about those outliers. I am not exactly sure what the core population did on those moved. I can certainly dig that data up and talk to the principal investigator at BYU. I know they experienced both, some stayed put and some took off. They experienced both. Some stayed and some took off.

Derris Jones- If we are talking realistic predator control on a deer transplant, in your estimation are we looking at a three or four square mile or are we looking at a 150 square mile? How big of an area do we need to remove predators to be effective?

Justin Shannon- I don't know

Kevin Albrecht- when they moved those deer in the winter. There was a couple of outliers' that moved. But the population really stayed really close in the winter near those resident deer. When they seen the movement is in the spring and in the summer when they started to make those movements back and they started to see a lot bigger. But I think to answer Derris's question, for 4-5 months I would say look following that study it was actually very really close to where those deer were you know when they get their bearings and that kind of thing I would say.

Justin Shannon- I guess I don't have the answer on exactly what it would look like but if we were to do predator control on something like this we would probably want to map those data and look at the data points and see how far from the release sight that they went and in time in the year. I don't have that in front of me. But if we do this, this is definitely something that we can look at.

Derris Jones- do they still have a poison collar? I know they have experimented with domestic sheep at one time. Where the coyote will only eat the sheep once and then it would be dead after it chews on that collar. Is that still an option?

Justin Shannon- I know those were really big in the 70's and 80's and things like that. But I haven't heard of much use on them in Mule deer. I can look into it but I haven't heard much use. I know we haven't done it. I don't know if we have ever done it. Guy have we ever have?

Derris Jones- I will make a motion to accept the divisions recommendation for Bucks, Bulls and OIAL 2014 Season Dates and Application Timeline as presented, except that the Division increase predator control at mule deer release sites with the DWR determining the size of the expanded predator treatment area.

Kevin Albrecht- so we have a motion by Derris to accept the Divisions recommendations for Bucks, Bulls and OIAL with the addition to have a active predator management?

Derris Jones- all of these areas we are moving deer into have already got predator management on so it has to be above and beyond their predator management. It has to be something in addition.

Kevin Albrecht- An Additional pre treatment before translocation.

Derris Jones- corrects.

Kevin Albrecht- Is that sufficient Brent?

Kevin Albrecht- ok we have a motion on the table. Seconded by:Charlie Tracy.

## **VOTING**

### **Bucks, Bulls and OIAL 2014 Season Dates and Application Timeline**

**MOTION:** To accept the Bucks, Bulls and OIAL 2014 Season Dates and Application Timeline as presented, except that the Division increase predator control at mule deer release sites with the DWR determining the size of the expanded predator treatment area.

Passed with a majority vote: 7 to 1 with one opposing vote cast by Wayne Hoskisson

### **6) CWMU Management Plans and Permit Numbers for 2014 (Action)**

**-Scott McFarlane, Wildlife Program Coordinator  
(Presentation)**

### **Questions from the RAC**

**Derris Jones-** on the spring Canyon CWMU new application. The public land the 4,900 some odd acres that included 600 of public land?

**Scott McFarlane-** if the public land was included. This number has changed and I think our final number has changed several times. Our final number that we came up with if the public land was included. And I will show you a map of this. If the public land was included it would come out to 5,017 acres. Which would put it barely; the minimum requirement for a CWMU (deer) would be 5,000 acres. The problem that we have with it is that if you look right in the middle of the screen, the green SITLA 600 acres is the property that is needed to make it be a valid CWMU. To make of the original 5,000 acres the minimum 5,000 acres it has to be contiguous property and contiguous doesn't mean by definition touching corner to corner. Without that SITLA section of property it doesn't qualify. In order to have public lands qualify for inclusion in a CWMU there are three requirements. It can have or be completely surrounded by private land, or otherwise in assessable to the public it not completely surrounded and it does have public access. That is bordered to the south by quite a bit of public land. A second criterion is if needed to make a definable boundary and the third is if it is needed to meet the management or the herd management objectives for the unit. That is the three criteria that it can be included.

**Derris Jones-** So using that definition on the Minnie Maud Ridge for the school section is recommended not to be included. I think that school section is completely surrounded by Private. But the land owner on one side is not part of the CWMU and he allows access by permission through his property to that section. Is that why that is excluded from the Minnie Maud?

**Scott McFarlane-** Yes I think partially, but I will probably have to have the region address that. But it had been previously taken out because of that reason at the request at either the wildlife board or the regional or the CWMU advisory committee or both. I don't know the background on that I would have to have the

region address that. If, Brad would?

**Brad Crompton-** On the upper corner there is someone that can access that state section from their property. Also on the Southern half there is a different property on it. So there are two property owners in question. I think it was four years ago we had that state section included. They came to the RAC and the RAC voted to exclude it and the board passed that as well. The CWMU was asked to include that again because they thought they had things resolved with those two land owners but in the end they did not have them resolved. Instead of going through the same fight again we figured it would be in our best interest to exclude the state section.

**Derris Jones-** So is this school section here on Spring Canyon at 600 acres is it considered accessible from the south. If it was just the corner on the North east would that still be considered accessible on a walk over the corner kind of thing or is that considered un-accessible?

**Scott McFarlane-** to my knowledge and we might have to talk to Law Enforcement about this, but as we enforced it before corner to corner access was not considered a legal access. So the access would be coming from the south. If we are dealing with a trespass and trespass laws technically I don't believe you can cross on two corners that are touching like that.

**Brad Crompton-** if you are familiar with Carbon County this from the consumers' road and the Gordon Creek upper fields there. They are owned by the DWR it is a straight shot of public land from that road all the way there. Can a guy get there? There is no road access clearly, and it is some very steep terrain it is going right over the top of bull point and into a canyon. But just the premise of locking up public land on a part of the mountain that has not very much public land is kind of the premise of why we opted to stick with this and the rule backs us up that way.

**Scott McFarlane-** The division for the CWMU program wants to be very careful about shutting off or denying public access to public property. That is not needed. And sometimes with remote properties that makes it even more attractive to some hunters to be able to hunt that because they feel that might harbor more animals, but we just want to be very, very careful about restricting the public access to the public lands with the program. So that is why we recommend no.

**Charlie Tracy-** What was SITLA's Stance on that?

**Scott McFarlane-** SITLA actually wrote a letter that was submitted with the application and said they support it. If, it fits within the rule. If, it fits within the legal requirements to include it in the property.

**Charlie Tracy-** They are ok reducing or limiting access to public lands then? Is that what we are saying there?

**Scott McFarlane-** they are saying it is ok if we do it. But, as long as it fits within the legal parameters, to include it into the CWMU.

**Kevin Albrecht-** looking at the map there is still some additional private land that is not there that if they would be able to pursue some opportunity to meet if they so desired?

**Scott McFarlane-** we have discussed this with them. And I believe a representative is here with us tonight to discuss that. But we have discussed some of the opportunities and some of it would be too purchase SITLA lands, which a lot of time they are willing to sale they just have to put or there is a timed process that it has to go

through. They have looked at other options. The big problem on this is blocking up that center section, because it doesn't meet the rule to touch corner to corner like that and somehow that has to remedy. If there is a portion or if all of the SITLA section was purchased then that would make it a valid CWMU.

Kevin Albrecht- any other questions?

### Comments from the Questions from the Public

Floyd Hatch- I am a relate broker in SLC and I am here representing Rick Gatherum who owns the acreage in the blue and I want to say that Scott is a wonderful friend and he is the biologist who helped me put together a CWMU on our Morgan County property several years ago and Brad would be a friend as well. There is nothing unfriendly or nothing in my mind that is controversially here. I just want to point out where we started and there are always two sides to every story. The reason the acreage changed is we did not know the acreage that we had. It would be checked at the recorder's office and there were changes. The last one was asking about the BLM acreage in yellow and because that is surrounded by private acreage we are able to include that. Regardless of where we go. It was our contention and Rick Gatherum and myself that what is going on below the SITLA acreage. Yes it is public ground but it is a long ways to a trail or a road and I still feel that legal entrance into that SITLA acreage would be very difficult to do. The roads are a couple miles to the south all of the trails go through Gatherum property. One can get there but it would be pretty difficult to do that and everyone of us have packed deer and elk out of places know that a couple miles on horses up and over the top of a mountain are a lot different than just doing something on a flat trail. So we accept everything that has been said, we understand that we have got some work to do. From what I understand on that corner to corner kiss on the Gatherum property you could take one acre of SITLA and comply with where we need to be and then go get the 599 acres some other place. But we have talked with SITLA discussions are on going on how that can be put on the auction in either May or September. Blackhawk Coal Company has not been an easy group to get a hold of but we are working very hard with that and then you can see that we got another CWMU on the west. The interesting thing to me when I started was. This was a CWMU at one time. And most of you down here will know that better than I it was called the Ghost Town Get Away. But it wasn't 5,000 acres it was the Gatherum acreage and the stuff called Floye was gathered together and it was 4,000 something acres. As the CWMU program Improved and Gatherum bought the property with the DWR's help. Now that was when the CWMU went away and he was told you got to have 5,000 acres to make it happen. So this is a work in progress and it needs to happen and I just want to make sure when we come back next year. And we really looked forward to tonight because we knew this was the region where the property sits vs. the other RACS. I just wanted to point all of these things out and answer any questions and I appreciate the stuff that has come up. I understand public ground as

well as anybody. And we don't want to be doing something that is not right. But it took getting on the schedule and being able to come tonight to really understand where we were. So what we will do is stay in communication with Brad and we will get this done one way or the other. I did think it was interesting that SITLA said let's get it done but we need to be within the DWR outlines. So I think they would be willing to sale all or part of those 600 acres. Now I haven't got the final word.

Blair Eastman- have you petitioned for that?

Floyd Hatch- well I have gone to the SLC office to the man that is over this region here. I can't remember his name. But he said that he would take this in front of his boss and talk it over and then come back. They do have an auction scheduled in May. Something some other place is going to go on auction. I would also like to tell you that Mr. Gatherum has the grazing lease across this already. So that puts him in the game no matter what. Because he is already involved with the property he will be able to involved in the final auction.

Blair Eastman- so it has not been petitioned for yet?

Floyd Hatch- in the process. It has not.

Blair Eastman- so Kim or Rick will work with you on that? Kim Christy?

Floyd Hatch- Yes. SLC office? Yes

Kevin Albrecht\_ any other comments from the audience? How about from the RAC?

Blair Eastman- I want to go back to the Minnie Maud CWMU for a second. We visited this at least one time I remember and one of the families came to us and asked us about it and we had a pretty lengthy discussion. So do we need to make another kind of decision on this board concerning that state section? Or has that been done Brad in their application and they are ready to move on? What is going on with that I guess?

Scott McFarlane- what it is right now is the division recommends the approval of the application without the state sections which would be 36 private deer permits and 4 public deer permits and 36 private elk permits and 4 public elk permits without the state section included. If the RAC or the board decides to allow the inclusion of that then the numbers would change to the bottom one. So it is whether we recommend the approval without but it just depends on what the RAC and the Board decide to whether include that or not the numbers would change. And that's what you would be voting on.

Kevin Albrecht- Scott you may have spoke to it. But can you speak to it again to the state section and the access to that public land?

Scott McFarlane- That I will have to refer to Brad, because he is a lot more intimately familiar with that than I am.

Brad Crompton- In the northeast corner of the state section there is a corner to corner access from adjacent private land owner. Then in the southern there is a full 80 acres that where it adjoins another private land owner who is not or both of these landowners are not in the CWMU.

Blair Eastman- and that is where the problem arose before wasn't it?

Brad Crompton-From the Northeast corner last time. But I won't name names but two different property owners there. And I think he is on the brink of making a deal with him but without that deal made we didn't feel like we should go forward.

**Blair Eastman-** and those other two landowners aren't interested in belonging to that CWMU right?

**Brad Crompton-** No, haven't had interests in that way. That would be the easy solution.

**Blair Eastman-** But not happening.

**Brad Crompton-** Not in the near future.

**Derris Jones-** so right now we are looking at the "if we can include the state section", the public gets an elk tag and two deer tags.

**Brad Crompton-** Yes additional public tags.

**Derris Jones-** and if we don't include it then the public can have access to that state section and be able to hunt it.

**Brad Crompton-** yep. They have had , now I don't if I am shooting them in the foot with this but they have kind of used that state section to take some youth hunters up during that youth any bull hunt, and things like that both the CWMU because they have access to it and those adjacent landowners so there is some opportunities there. It is completely controlled by those two landowners for the most part.

**Wayne Hoskisson-** just so I can visualize this area is this top of Nine mile or is the bottom?

**Brad Crompton-** Minnie Maud canyon comes into Nine mile canyon there is about half way up and there. It is right south from the Minnie Maud road there and it goes all the way up to the divide where it drops into Whitmore Park. If, that helps.

**Karl Ivory-** on this like Derris followed up with there. With the section you get one elk and two more deer. But without it you don't have it. So access through the private land is that controlled by the private land? It is not opened to public land access?

**Brad Crompton-** There is no county road to it or anything like that. So it just controlled by those two land owners.

**Karl Ivory-** so it is the landowners that determines who goes on to the state section on that?

**Brad Crompton-** Pretty much.

**Blair Eastman-** those other two landowners have access through their property.

**Karl Ivory-** Right. But the public doesn't have access.

**Brad Crompton-** this isn't about public access really unfortunately.

**Karl Ivory-** ok

**Blair Eastman-** They get a lot of deer tags? How old are the deer that they are killing? That is rough country over there. And that seems like a lot of deer

**Brad Crompton-** we don't collect age data on deer on most of these CWMU's I have look through the harvest data and compared CWMU's in the region and certainly is on the aggressive end of harvest. What they have had to do to make that work is there are so many landowners involved in that. The guys that are guiding hunters are only taken a third of those tags and giving the rest back to the landowners so they still have the opportunity to hunt their own property. That said as far as the CWMU's in the region and on the quality it is on the lower end. But certainly a lot of good limited entry sort of opportunity for the public. We haven't gotten any complaints yet.

**Blair Eastman-** what about the elk?

**Brad Crompton-**the average age is by far the lowest in the CWMU's in the region. It is triple the permits that most of the CWMU's have as far as elk permits per acre. It is in a unit with and any bull unit where unlike a limited entry elk unit where we would have to have. It would be proportional to the number of tags on the public land.

**Blair Eastman-** what is the average age right now on their elk?

**Brad Crompton-** it is 4.1 or something like that.

**Blair Eastman-** pretty young them

**Brad Crompton-** yep

**Blair Eastman-** thanks

**Charlie Tracy-** so if you leave the state section in there then the public hunters do they just get to hunt on the state section? Or the whole CWMU?

**Brad Crompton-** if you include public land in a CWMU the way that the rule is set up is that we need to accommodate the public for that so they have access to all of the CWMU. And maybe for clarification what we are recommending is to approve basically the status Quote what it has been for the last three years. And that is without the state section. The CWMU wanted to include it this year and we are saying no thanks.

### Comments from the Public

**Travis Leutaud-** I am one of the landowners that borders this. If you guys had any questions that you wanted to ask me I would be more than happy to answer them.

**Derris Jones-** what do you do when people ask permission to get to that state section through you Travis?

**Travis Leutaud-** I actually had two youth any bull hunters this year that accessed up through. They hunted our property plus the state property. I usually try to keep it to two hunters per hunt. So I think I had three archery hunters for deer and elk and then two for the youth any bull and two for the rifle regular elk, and I think one muzzle loader deer hunter. And it is just kind of a whoever comes and asks me type thing.

**Derris Jones-** do you charge access?

**Travis Leutaud-** No and that is one thing I don't feel that I should be charging people access to go up to hunt state property. So I don't. I could actually have gotten you names of everybody that actually hunted up there this year. But I didn't. But I could get them put together if you need me too.

### RAC Discussion

**Blair Eastman-** Do we need to address this again?

**VOTING**

**Motion was made by Wayne Hoskisson to accept the CWMU Management Plans and Permit Numbers for 2014 as presented.  
Seconded by Blair Eastman  
Motion passed unanimously**

- 7) **Landowner Permit Numbers for 2014 (Action)**  
**-Scott McFarlane, Wildlife Program Coordinator  
(Presentation)**

**Questions from the RAC**

**Kevin Albrecht- Questions from the RAC? From the Audience?**

**Comments from the Questions from the Public**

**NO comments**

**Comments from the Public**

**No Comments**

**RAC Discussion**

**No Discussion**

**VOTING**

**Motion was made by Karl Ivory to accept the Landowner Permit Numbers for 2014 as presented.**

**Seconded by Trisha Hedin**

**Motion passed unanimously**

- 8) **Utah Hunter Mentoring Program (Action)**  
**-Greg Hansen, Wildlife Program Coordinator  
(Presentation)**

## Questions from the RAC

**Kevin Albrecht- Any Questions from the RAC?**

**Charlie Tracy- Would you expand this to like trapping and everything else you know like bear hunting and lion hunting and everything like that if this went well?**

**Greg Hansen- right now the way the code section is written it is a limited to hunting is says you may use the hunting permit of another. Originally the division had considered only limiting the permit sharing to general season big game permits and so right now we have expanded it farther than our original thought process was. These types of programs have been really successful in other states and they see quite a bit of use. So I think it something we probably would look at and see how successful we are this go around. Maybe adjust our program accordingly but right now that idea hasn't come up yet, but i don't think it is anything that would be totally foreclosed at all.**

**Derris Jones- So a Mentor can change if he wants to take another child out he can switch to a different child?**

**Greg Hansen- yes**

**Derris Jones- can a reverse happen? Can a child go out with two different mentors like a mother and a father both have permits can a child go with one parent and then next week end go out with another parent?**

**Greg Hansen-there are other limitations in code that limit you from taking like, you can't possess more than one antlered big game permit at a time and you can't take more than one antlered big game permit in a single season. So I guess there could be a situation to where a child goes out with one adult one weekend, that adult then surrenders there sharing. The following weekend the second adult well you would still have your ten day administrative period that would have to be a buffer in between the two sharing periods. But if there were a surrender that happened a ten day waiting period and the second approval I believe that situation could occur, but there would have to be a pretty lengthily administrative process in between those two.**

**Derris Jones- If we are talking cow elk tags. There is an early season cow elk hunt. The child goes out with one mentor and the other parent draws a late season cow elk tag. If, that child is the one that shoots. Well you can kill two cow elk so I guess at that point.**

**Greg Hansen- at that point it could happen. But the main incentive or purpose of this program isn't to take opportunity away from existing hunters it is to increase opportunity for youth and get them out in the field and get them hooked. And hopefully make it an enjoyable experience for them. That is the main push behind this program.**

**Kevin Albrecht- one rule that I have seen is the youth must be within hand signals or distance. Just wondering if there is a physical restraint of the mentor to be able to get out if there is an additional mentor that would be able to help them or if it is just**

the one that has the permit?

**Greg Hansen-** I am relatively certain that under the ADA accommodations that we would be able to accommodate a situation like that. I don't know how often something like that would occur but we do have processes in place that address disabilities situations like that. So many of those are so situational specific that I don't know if I can speak in a broad context but I am pretty confident that we both would be able and be required to come up with a accommodation in a situation like that.

**Kevin Albrecht-** any questions from the audience? Comments from the Audience?

### Comments from the Questions from the Public

**Roland Tallerico-** Over two permits can the same child do two different hunts with two different mentors? If I draw an archery tag can I take my nephew on an archery hunt and then my dad which would be the grandpa can he take him on a rifle hunt?

**Greg Hansen-** the child that participates would have to fall into the one of two categories that are laid out into rule. A child, grandchild,

**Rolland Tallerico-** Right, even though you said one animal can be taken. Can he still if he shoots a bow and kills a deer on the deer hunt can he still go?

**Kevin Albrecht-** he can only possess one animal.

**Rolland Tallerico-** but can he go on the rifle hunt with his grandpa and not shoot it but just go? Because you still have the tag for the animal but can he still go?

**Greg Hansen-** he can still go but probably not under this program. He can still attend on the hunt, but he couldn't share the permit. There would be no reason for him to be under the mentor.

**Rolland Tallerico-** other than the experience of it. So he can decide which kind of hunting he would like to go with.

**Greg Hansen-** and we would encourage him to attend that second hunt but just not carry a weapon.

**Kevin Albrecht-** so if the youth signed up with one the dad and then with the grandpa. And he had taken one on the other hunt. Then how would that is taken care of with that permit that he would have?

**Greg Hansen-** I guess it would depend on what type the two different hunts are. If it was an antlered hunt and antlerless hunt then you don't have those restrictions in code for possessing two permits or taking two animals that are both antlered. If they are both antlered hunts then the child wouldn't be able to participate in the second hunt.

**Kevin Albrecht-** he can only have one permit at a time

**Greg Hansen-** one permit at a time. Yes.

**Karl Ivory-** With this scenario where the grandson goes out with grandpa and he shoots the deer with the archery tackle and he is the minor being mentor. But he also has said a rifle tag of his own without being mentored then he couldn't have

that?

Greg Hansen- No

Karl Ivory- so as soon as that minor maybe he draws a limited entry tag he probably wouldn't enter into this mentoring?

Greg Hansen- No. and that would probably be a surrender process where you surrender your first certification.

Charlie Tracy- Basically your just giving a kid a chance if he don't draw out then he can still do it this way?

Greg Hansen- Yes

### Comments from the Public

### RAC Discussion

#### VOTING

Motion was made by Charlie Tracy to accept the Utah Hunter Mentoring Program as presented.

Seconded by Chris Micoz

Motion passed unanimously

#### 9) Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments (Action)

-Bryan Christensen, Dedicated Hunter Coordinator  
(Presentation)

### Questions from the RAC

Derris Jones- Bryan what percent of the hunters finish their three year program in two years? As far as harvest?

Bryan Christensen- I can speak for this year and in 2013 we ran a report and it was 82-83 that were at harvest limit. Which means they didn't get there 3<sup>rd</sup> permit out of 5,000.

Derris Jones- so a big chunk of them are done first two years?

Bryan Christensen- no so just the opposite, very few. We are talking 80 people out of 5,000

Derris Jones- I thought it was %. Do you feel like there is going to be much of a book keeping problem. I mean if people don't complete the thirty two hours in three years?

Bryan Christensen- not at all, actually.

Derris Jones- most of them re-up for the next three years so they have to get things cleared up?

Bryan Christensen- or apply for something. So how that works now. I think maybe I

am going to answer potentially two questions here. So make sure that I get the right answer here for you. Dedicated hunters that don't complete all of their hours they go on an automatic computer driven administrative hold. If they still owe hours the computer says your done applying until we get that resolved. So they go to apply.

Derris Jones- it doesn't even allow them to apply?

Blair Eastman- for any tag or just a deer tag?

Bryan Christensen- any draw related permit. So cougar, swan, turkey, bear or anything and normally what happens is the few and it is not a very big number. That we have fall into this situation. Come February 1<sup>st</sup> we get a phone call that says the web site won't let me apply it says to call you, what do I need to do? And we know exactly what to do. There is very few that do that. But they are stopped a 100% until they take care of their obligation and that is where paying off the hours vs. allowing them to jump on a project come in real handy. Many of them are prepared to pay off 8 hours or even 32 hours right then at the drawing. But we can find a project for them.

Blair Eastman- what does it cost for them to pay out their hours or to buy out their hours?

Bryan Christensen- it is the same hurly rate that they would if they were buying hours within the program and it is \$20 per hour.

Kevin Albrecht- Can you speak to the poaching reward? What is that clarifying?

Bryan Christensen- So the situation we had was a gentleman that had participated in the poaching reporting program. He had given information and was eligible to be a recipient of a rewards permit. Well it was a deer permit and you can't have two deer permits in the same year, based on the wildlife code. So what we added on to this rule is an option of deferring that rewards permit until after a COR was completed or he turn in the dedicated hunter permit as long as he hadn't already hunted on it and then accept the rewards permit instead. So there was no language in either the rewards rule or this rule so we needed something just to make it a little clearer

Kevin Albrecht- and so will that rule also allow so if they take the poaching reward permit and they don't use their dedicated hunter permit, but they have paid for those three years .will that allow them to have that other year of eligibility?

Bryan Christensen- The way that we written it don't extend the program. It just allows for the opportunity for him to accept it later. Right now the only option we have to extend the program an additional year is for military.

### Comments from the Questions from the Public

No comments and No questions

### Comments from the Public

### RAC Discussion

### VOTING

Motion was made by Derris Jones

to accept the Dedicated Hunter Rule

**Amendments as presented.  
Seconded by Blair Eastman  
Motion passed unanimously**

**Adjournment**

**The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.**

**The next Wildlife Board meeting will take place on December 4-5 at 9 a.m. in the DNR ballroom, 1594 W. North Temple, Salt Lake City.**

**The next SER RAC meeting will take place on December 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the John Wesley Powell Museum in Green River.**

**NORTHEASTERN RAC MEETING SUMMARY OF MOTIONS**  
**Utah Wildlife Resources Office, 318 N Vernal Avenue, Vernal**  
**November 14, 2013**

**5. BUCKS, BULLS & OIAL 2014 SEASON DATES AND APPLICATION TIMELINE**

**MOTION to accept as presented by the state**

Passed unanimously

**6. CWMU MANAGEMENT PLANS AND PERMIT NUMBERS FOR 2014**

**MOTION to approve CWMU plan and numbers as recommended by Division**

Passed unanimously

**7. LANDOWNER PERMIT NUMBERS FOR 2014**

**MOTION to approve with the Diamond Mountain Landowner Variance**

Motion passed 6 to 2

**8. UTAH HUNTER MENTORING PROGRAM (NEW RULE)**

**MOTION to accept as presented**

Passed unanimously

**9. DEDICATED HUNTER RULE AMENDMENTS**

**MOTION to accept as presented**

Passed unanimously

**NORTHEASTERN REGION RAC MEETING SUMMARY**  
**Utah Wildlife Resources Office, 318 N Vernal Ave, Vernal**  
**November 14, 2013**

**RAC MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Rod Morrison, Sportsmen  
John Mathis, Public Official  
Mitch Hacking, Agriculture  
Carrie Messerly, At Large  
Wayne McAllister, Chair  
Boyde Blackwell, NER Supervisor  
Joe Batty, Agriculture  
Dan Abeyta, Forest Service  
Randy Dearth, Sportsmen  
David Gordon, BLM

**RAC MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Beth Hamann, Non consumptive  
Andrea Merrell, Non consumptive

**UDWR PERSONNEL PRESENT:**

Justin Shannon, SLO Wildlife Program, Coordinator  
Scott McFarlane, SLO Wildlife Program, Coordinator  
Greg Hansen, Assistant Attorney General  
Bryan Christensen, SLO Dedicated Htr Pgm Coordinator  
Gayle Allred, NER Office Manager  
Ron Stewart, NER Conservation Outreach Manager  
Randy Scheetz, NER Sergeant  
Torrey Christophersen,  
Dax Mangus, NER Wildlife Manager  
Derrick Ewell, NER Wildlife Biologist  
Randall Thacker, NER Wildlife Biologist  
Clint Sampson, NER Wildlife Biologist  
Amy VandeVoort, NER Wildlife Biologist  
Alex Hansen, NER Walk-in Access Biologist

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Carrie Messerly/Mitch Hacking

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Carrie Messerly/Dan Abeyta

**3. OLD BUSINESS: Wayne McAllister**

Carrie Messerly attended the Wildlife Board meeting. Covered the R657-3 fishing which passed. Most things passed as presented. Spear fishing was a big topic.

**4. REGIONAL UPDATE: Boyde Blackwell**

*Law Enforcement:*

We're down a couple of officers. Jake Greenwood, who covers the Duchesne area, is new and has to have a companion officer with him for about a year. He has been baptized by fire but is learning the ropes quickly.

There have been a couple of cases this year of people who thought they were shooting at elk but shot a moose instead. All in all our officers are doing a good job covering the region and are to be commended.

*Habitat:*

The crew has completed a 980-acre chaining on Moon Ridge.  
They did 500 acres in Pine Springs.  
They have also been doing seedings and guzzler replacements.

*Aquatics:*

Middle Fork Sheep Creek, 47 Colorado cutthroats were stocked.

Trend netting studies at Starvation for rainbow and walleye have been completed. We are seeing some good, healthy fish.

Flaming Gorge personnel have finished netting for burbot they have tagged over 100 for the Burbot Bash.

*Wildlife:*

Working with Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, put out roughly 4000 pheasants total in this region which went to our Wildlife Management Areas and the Walk-in Access areas in the region. Two-thirds of those birds were purchased by SFW. We have received a lot of positive feedback at seeing pheasants again.

We utilized the day-old chick program to some extent. There were certain criteria which made it a little bit more difficult overall we had 60% survival of day-old chicks that went out. We're also looking at including chukars in the future.

Deer check stations: some had a higher number of deer that were checked this year, which brought in additional happy people.

We will be starting post-season classification counts. Dax Mangus asked me to let you know that you're invited if you want to go on a morning or evening and classify deer with them. I have a schedule here. If you'll get with me you'll get to see where they classify deer.

*Outreach:*

Putting out news releases to let people know about where the pheasants are going and working with Dedicated Hunters who have put in 5000 volunteer hours.

We have had a Big Game Program Coordinator change in the Salt Lake Office. Justin Shannon has replaced Anis Aoude as the new big game coordinator. He'll be happy to answer questions tonight about statewide issues.

**5. 2014 BUCKS, BULLS AND OIAL 2014 SEASON DATES AND APPLICATION TIMELINE  
(and amendments to Rule R657-5) - Justin Shannon**

*2014 General Season Deer Hunt Dates:*

|              |             |         |
|--------------|-------------|---------|
| Archery      | 8/16-9/12   | 28 Days |
| Muzzleloader | 9/24-10/2   | 9 Days  |
| Any Weapon   | 10/18-10/26 | 9 Days  |

Standardize the definition of youth as:

Any person 17 years of age or younger on July 31 qualifies as a youth.

*2014 General Season Elk Hunt Dates:*

|                     |            |         |
|---------------------|------------|---------|
| Archery Spike Bull  | 8/16-9/5   | 21 Days |
| Archery Any Bull    | 8/16-9/12  | 28 Days |
| Any Weapon          | 10/4-10/16 | 13 Days |
| Muzzleloader        | 10/29-11/6 | 9 Days  |
| Youth Any Bull      | 9/13-9/21  | 9 Days  |
| Late Youth Any Bull | 11/29-1/15 | 48 Days |

*Statewide BBOIAL Recommendations:*

-Recommend altering R657-5 to allow for the use of crossbows, draw-locks, and magnifying scopes on muzzleloaders during the any weapon hunts only.

**Northeastern Recommendations:**

- We recommend expanding the boundary for the Uinta Basin Extended archery deer/elk hunt to target resident big game living in low elevation, agricultural lands.
- We recommend creating a new bison hunt on the Book Cliffs.
- We recommend splitting the Book Cliffs LE deer hunt into north and south units during the any weapon hunt. This is to address discrepancies in buck to doe ratios in the north and south portions of the Book Cliffs.

*Key Dates for 2014*

- Big game drawing for Bucks, Bulls and OIAL and new dedicated hunter applicants:
- Application period: January 30-March 6, 2014.

- Application period for bonus and preference points and application withdrawal period:
- January 30-March 20, 2014
- Results posted by May 30, 2014

Lifetime license unit-selection deadline

- Lifetime License holders will automatically be assigned the unit they had the previous year
- Changes in unit selection must be submitted by March 6, 2014
- Those who did not hunt in 2013 and fail to choose a unit by the deadline can obtain leftover permits if available

Hunters with disabilities extension dates:

|                                |               |            |
|--------------------------------|---------------|------------|
| -Archery deer                  | 8/11-8/15     | preseason  |
| -Muzzleloader Deer             | 9/19-9/23     | preseason  |
| -Any Weapon Deer               | 10/13-10/17   | preseason  |
| -Archery Elk                   | 8/11-8/15     | preseason  |
| -Muzzleloader Any Bull Elk     | 11/7-11/12    | postseason |
| -Any Weapon Any Bull Elk       | 9/13-9/21     | preseason  |
| and during NER late youth hunt | 11/29-1/15/15 | postseason |

|                         |             |            |
|-------------------------|-------------|------------|
| -Muzzleloader Spike Elk | 11/7-11/11  | postseason |
| -Any Weapon Spike Elk   | 10/17-10/21 | postseason |

**Questions from RAC:**

Mitch Hacking: Regarding the extended archery boundary change in Brush Creek. Two years ago it was an extended hunt boundary and was taken out because of migratory animal issues. Now you're bringing it back. What has changed?

Dax Mangus: Two years ago there was some concern that extended archery hunters were harvesting deer from Diamond Mountain and there were issues enforcing the one mile boundary. We got a lot of feedback from Brush Creek landowners who own land on both sides, so we went back and said the new boundary doesn't include Brush Creek above Island Park road but south down to the Green River on both sides of the creek to help landowners with depredation issues on both sides of the road.

Mitch Hacking: The private ground and farms above Brush Creek haven't been included in this. Why not?

Dax Mangus: It's partially a boundary issue, but that's the concern about Diamond bucks that prompted the change two years ago. We don't want to harvest deer coming off Diamond Mountain.

Mitch Hacking: Can the boundaries be changed for next year if Diamond Mountain Landowners want changes?

Dax Mangus: Yes.

Rod Morrison: Where was your dividing line on the north and south Book Cliffs deer?

Clint Sampson: We went with the Divide Road to the Uintah/Grand County line, going east, and to the Colorado Border north and south. The north boundary includes the roadless area.

Rod Morrison: Have you come up with a percentage split?

Clint Sampson: Nothing has been set in stone. That will be done at the RAC meeting next year.

Joe Batty: How big is the bison herd in the Book Cliffs now?

Justin Shannon: The objective is 450. We're at roughly 100 animals or so.

Randy Dearth: How many did we plant?

Justin Shannon: 71 animals.

Dax Mangus: Some of the animals went over to Ute Tribal lands, so they didn't all stay on public lands.

Randy Dearth: So they're growing 30% or so?

Dax Mangus: Yes, and we brought in young animals who weren't breeding age yet, but now I think production is picking up in that herd.

Dan Abeyta: What is the rationale for changing the archery hunting in San Pete Valley, no more bulls?

Justin Shannon: That unit is part of the Manti unit and the Manti we manage for 5 1/2 to 6 year old bulls. We've taken that down. There's a lack of alignment with the Division's recommendation letting archers hunt them with an over the counter tag.

Dan Abeyta: What are you managing for?

Justin Shannon: It's a social management recommendation.

Dan Abeyta: On archery hunting in selected waterfowl management areas, are all six within management objectives already?

Justin Shannon: No. what it is, is Division-owned lands. We decided this is something we can provide to people who want to spend time on WMAs with no conflict to waterfowl hunters.

Dan Abeyta: My concern is there are so many hunts and so many units struggling, adding more pressure is my concern.

Justin Shannon: it's not adding a hunt, it's allowing another place to go, relieving pressure on other areas.

### **Questions from Public:**

Joey Draper: I'm curious on the buffalo units on the Book Cliffs, Flat Rock and Wild Horse. Why not open any on the east side of Willow Creek?

Dax Mangus: We're recommending a new hunt including the entire unit. The hunt we have now is late; a lot of bison will migrate there. The new hunt will address that.

### **Comments from Public:**

Stan Baker: (Mule Deer Foundation). Read letter regarding amending the statewide management plan for mule deer. Want state wildlife agencies to transplant mule deer. Habitat projects have had a major impact on declining populations. No other state has been as aggressive as Utah in habitat work. Want predator control to occur before any transplant operations. If this isn't the right place to propose it, they could be put in each translocation project. MDF will provide volunteers to help.

### **Comments from RAC:**

John Mathis: Regarding the letter you read, is there predator control provided now?

Justin Shannon: This is something we're willing to commit to.

John Mathis: What kind of an effort will that be?

Justin Shannon: It would be focused on coyotes. Cougars are protected and the recommendations come through the RAC process. Coyotes would be the focus.

John Mathis: Do we need to add that in the motion to add predator control?

Carrie Messerly: We could have a recommendation to the Wildlife Board that it could be included in translocation plan.

Stan Baker: Last night they included it in their motion, that as part of the amendment that they would do predator control along specific release sites prior to transplants.

Wayne McAllister: I see it in two senses. Presently, you're taking into consideration all those aspects?

Justin Shannon: A lot of the release sites already fall under predator management areas. If we know we're going to release them in specific drainages, we do predator control.

Carrie Messerly: Wouldn't it have to be an extended period of time, like two or three years, to manage the predator population?

Justin Shannon: Good point. This is something we can commit to do to the best of our ability.

Carrie Messerly: If you kill pups, the bitch will go into reproduction mode and the population will actually increase. What you're talking about is a little ambiguous.

Stan Baker: We don't have a lot of background information. We're into this one year on one translocation in the Pahvant area. And what we're talking about is releasing on winter range area and the deer are going to move. We don't have the science and recommendation to present the science and how big an area. We'd just like to see a careful monitoring and a research in and of itself to see what works the best.

Carrie Messerly: Leaving it to the discretion of the Division is reasonable. The cost is exponential. We're not going to put deer in an area to just be bait for predators.

Mitch Hacking: Question/observation. When the Fish & Game looks at areas, you study them for quite a while before transplanting?

Dax Mangus: We don't do a lot of predator studies, but all the units we proposed as possible release sites are under predator management where we'll do aerial gunning and efforts like range trend monitoring sites. The units in our region are areas where we had historically more deer. The habitat will support more

deer and places where deer will have a good fighting chance to survive. We're committed but don't have a whole lot of background on how it will work and see if it's effective.

Carrie Messerly: I remember going along to transplant deer when I was young. This is not a new study but has not been wildly successful in the past for mule deer because they're a relatively weak species.

Justin Shannon: If we move forward with this effort, we want to learn from it. With bighorn sheep we were killing every other one. We're committed to get better with it and find out what the limiting factors are. It's a door we'd like to open.

Stan Baker (Mule Deer Foundation): It's my understanding from the one Pahvant that's under our belt, which isn't a lot of research, but it's been widely discussed, that deer don't do well with transplants. From that one Pahvant release last winter, it looks like the stress factor was not what killed the deer. It was the predators. They tagged both and predation was on released ones instead of resident deer. I'd like to see if there is some methodology we can use.

John Mathis: What's the cost of moving deer?

Justin Shannon: The cost depends. It varies. With deer we have the potential to drop net or bait them in. With a helicopter, it's about \$275-300 dollars, relative to each project. Most expensive is the helicopter capture.

Carrie Messerly: What are the survival rates?

Justin Shannon: We're not even the first year through the study, so of 100 deer relocated, there has been a 50-60 success rate so far. We're seeing collared deer with fawns on their heels but it's just too early to say.

John Mathis: Where are they coming from?

Justin Shannon: We're looking at Antelope Island where they have a lot of deer on them and hunting is not socially acceptable. Urban settings this winter. Also the Parowan front like last year. We're hoping to get experience.

John Mathis: You won't take anything from areas that don't meet the objective levels?

Justin Shannon: We will remove from areas where lethal removal is not successful or doing habitat damage.

Mitch Hacking: Are MDF and SFW helping with costs?

Justin Shannon: Yes. Last year SFW covered the entire costs.

Joe Batty: If there was a 40% mortality rate, what was the rate of predator kill?

Justin Shannon: Initially we thought we'd see a lot of mortality but the mortality did not occur until they moved to summer ranges, there were a lot of mortalities and a lot of it was predator related. We potentially had some poaching issues as well.

Joe Batty: What was the predator?

Justin Shannon: Coyotes and cougars; sometimes they couldn't tell.

Carrie Messerly: There 's a little bit of ambiguity in 657-12, Subsection 4. Can they use muzzleloader and crossbow enhancements during the muzzleloader season?

Justin Shannon: No. We're trying to be more liberal with the "any weapon" hunts. We're trying to open it up.

Torrey Christophersen: We are one of the only states that did not allow that for muzzleloader or crossbow during the "any legal weapon" hunts. We're trying to remedy that.

**MOTION:**

**Carrie Messerly move to accept as presented by the State**

**Randy Dearth: Second**

**Passed unanimously**

**6. CWMU MANAGEMENT PLANS AND PERMIT NUMBERS FOR 2014 - Scott McFarlane**

No changes for the five CWMUs in Northeastern Region:

1. Antelope Creek
2. Avintaquin
3. Buckhorn Ranch
4. Little Red Creek
5. Moon Ranch

**Questions from RAC:**

Randy Dearth: On Minnie Maud two were taken out. Why did Wildlife Resources remove it?

Scott McFarlane: It's a good section for hunting. They're wanting to include it with the addition of two more public deer permits and one more elk permit. The reason it was taken out before was because there was public access, but limited number of people to go through there to access the section, so there was basically public access through the private lands for the public to get to that. That's why it was originally taken out.

Dan Abeyta: NER seems to have a disproportionately small number of CWMUs. Only five? Why is that? Can we encourage more?

Scott McFarlane: I don't know why there are disproportionate numbers.

Randall Thacker: It's large, contiguous pieces of private property and only of value if you are surrounded by a limited entry unit. In our region, Diamond might have been, but they have a landowner association. Everything that fits the criteria is a CWMU for the most part in our region.

Boyde Blackwell: Also, the biggest effect on that is the amount of contiguous private land, and we have so much more public land. Most of the other regions don't have as much public land as we do.

Scott McFarlane: We have units in NRO that are 95% private lands. They definitely have the lion's share of CWMUs

**Questions from RAC:**

Joe Batty: Why did the landowners want to put it back?

Scott McFarlane: They didn't specify. There's a lot of wildlife on it though.

Joe Batty: Permits are really not that many.

Scott McFarlane: The difference would be three additional public permits, two deer and one elk. The landowner indicated he has been letting two to three hunts to public who contact him, that he lets them through to hunt their property in addition to public property, so net gain.

Joe Batty: So he could be a really nice guy and others who won't let people across their land.

Scott McFarlane: Could be.

**Questions from Public:**

None

**Discussion from Public:**

None

**Discussion from RAC:**

**MOTION:**

**Rod Morrison move to approve CWMU plan and numbers as recommended by Division**

**Mitch Hacking: Second**

**Passed unanimously**

## **7. LANDOWNER PERMIT NUMBERS FOR 2014 - Scott McFarlane**

### **Questions from RAC:**

None

### **Questions from Public:**

None

### **Comments from RAC:**

John Mathis: Will be done similar to CWMU where you submit an application, which will be good for three years, unless there are some changes. If there's a decrease in limited entry permit numbers, we can ask for a decrease in landowner permits. It'll make it easier for the associations. Some associations need in excess of 100 signatures each year.

Scott McFarlane: If the rule is approved, it'll be valid by September 1, one more time, but then will last for 3 years after that.

### **Comments from Public:**

Mike McCarrell: Do I read the variance letter tonight?

Boyde Blackwell: Yes.

Clint Sampson: I will make a copy for all RAC members.

Boyde Blackwell: The letter was submitted with the application and was recommended for approval with the application.

Carrie Messerly: Regarding the application, will that variance be every three years?

Scott McFarlane: Yes. If there are any changes, they will have to file an amendment which will be approved by the RAC and the Board. If there are no changes, it's every three years.

Carrie Messerly: What are the requests on the application?

Scott McFarlane: It requires signatures from a minimum of 51% of private landowners within the limited entry unit. A copy of bylaws and how the permit allocations will be divided out amongst members of the association.

Carrie Messerly: Can you read off the variance rule for me?

Boyde Blackwell: I can read that. R657-43-8(6)(a) Landowners who transfer vouchers to other hunters may deny public hunters access to the landowner association's private land for hunting by requesting, through the landowner association, a variance to Subsection (5)(b) from the Wildlife Board.

Carrie Messerly: I understand that this works currently and has worked for 18 years. My request as a representative at large is that we are verifying that there is public allowed on the property but we're not being given any proof. In order to justify this variance, I need to see that the public resource is being utilized as a public resource and not a private entity. I request that that be submitted annually.

Wayne McAllister: It's a variance.

Boyde Blackwell: They're not stating they're letting public on.

Carrie Messerly: Then what's the point? We're getting vouchers for animals that are being sold. What benefit is this to the public?

Boyde Blackwell: Private land, providing habitat for wildlife.

Mitch Hacking: Permits are providing relief for depredation. Manage that in a more effective way than in the general season. There is not public land that is not accessible. You can't get to all of them in a jeep, but you can get to them on horse or by foot. The public has benefitted by improvement in hunting and have had a list every year of individuals we've put on our private ground. Our list has always been greater than what the CWMUs have had to allow on it. We've had to do this because we've had this hammer over our head. We reserve the right to be able to turn them down if we want to.

Carrie Messerly: I understand the stress the pressure this puts on private landowners, but I get a ton of feedback from public that say this has become a private hunting show. It would relieve the tension and stress if we could say Diamond Mountain is letting public on their land.

Mitch Hacking: That's what our list has done.

John Mathis: How many public permits are issued for Diamond Mountain every year?

Amy VandeVoort: I don't have my spreadsheet but I think 120 deer and 50 elk are issued to the public in addition to the private vouchers.

John Mathis: And the quality of that hunt has improved significantly.

Amy VandeVoort: Hunters are satisfied. Satisfaction is 4 out of 5 on a scale of 1 to 5, with one being very dissatisfied and 5 being very satisfied.

Scott McFarlane: Landowner Association, part of the reason they put this together is to give private landowners incentive to provide wildlife and compensation for damage. It allows us to increase populations on these units. If it's accomplishing that purpose, it would take a rule change to require them

to provide a list of public, that they weren't required to let onto the property. I understand what you're saying, but it's something that's not required.

Mitch Hacking: Do you get from the public hunters who draw out, do you get significant negative results?

Amy VandeVoort: No. The feedback we get comes from a random sampling from hunters anonymously. It's all averaged about 4 for satisfaction, which means they're satisfied.

Scott McFarlane: The way that works is: 1- being very dissatisfied, 2- mildly dissatisfied, 3- neutral, 4- satisfied, and 5- very satisfied. It sounds like it is working. There's not many units that get a 5 rating.

Randy Dearth: That was public draw permits not just public holders?

Amy VandeVoort: It would be anyone in the public who draws out, yeah.

Joe Batty: One observation, a lot of the public know the boundaries and the quality of hunt around those boundaries has definitely gone up.

Mike McCarrell: If anyone has been to Alaska, there are people like that just waiting on the other side of the Diamond Mountain boundary for the deer to step off.

Mitch Hacking: Diamond Mountain landowners have gone out of their way to make sure the public are satisfied.

Wayne McAllister: Around the state, there are units you can't get to, they are closed. Here, this is a spot the public sees as being closed, but you can hunt those edges.

John Mathis: Without that compensation, the landowners are not going to let elk crash through their fences and eat their critical habitat. It's encouraged landowners to support wildlife and provides valuable areas for the public.

Randy Dearth: The Landowner Association program requires the public to hunt on their property but the variance allows Diamond Mountain to not follow that suite for good reasons.

Scott McFarlane: What the rule allows for is every permit redeemed, allows somebody else that has drawn a public permit for that unit. This is a variance from that.

Dan Abeyta: I don't understand the purpose of the variance if the landowner association still allows people in. At your discretion?

Mike McCarrell: (letter)

In compliance with R657-43-8(6), the Diamond Mountain Landowner Association (LOA) is respectfully requesting an access variance. This request is consistent with the rule as set by the Wildlife Board and has been granted to the Diamond Mountain LOA since the paragraph was included.

As a committee, we represent 156 landowners, or groups of landowners, within the Diamond Mountain Limited Entry hunting unit. The landowners on this management unit own 82,114 acres. The LOA is requesting a variance to assist private property landowners to manage hunters that could potentially access private property on the hunting unit.

Following the permit allocation process the Diamond Mountain LOA qualifies and receives approximately 35% of the total permits as vouchers for Bull Elk and Buck Deer. If the Diamond Mountain LOA is required to allow one public hunter to access any of the private ground within our Association for each private voucher, we could potentially have 70% of the hunters on any piece of private property. We as individual landowners are concerned for safety and the need to control access to our homes and private property.

The Diamond Mountain LOA was one of the first LOAs in the state; through this LOA we have maintained a successful working relationship with the DWR for more than 18 years. The Diamond Mountain LOA appreciates the opportunity to manage our lands for wildlife and thus increase wildlife populations. We have worked cooperatively with the support of government agencies, wildlife groups, and individual resource users.

We appreciate the support from the Wildlife Board, RAC and DWR helping us to improve hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities. Through these relationships, we have experienced great success enhancing the resources on this Unit.

We appreciate the continued opportunity to make this variance request and your consideration.

Sincerely

Diamond Mountain Landowner Association

Michael L. McCarrell, President

Mike McCarrell: Regarding my ground, we did not get an elk tag this year. We own a little over 3,000 acres. We've even cut every year. I got one deer tag. On my ground specifically I allowed three elk hunters, two deer hunters two bear hunters and two people hunting cows right now. If it's mandated that I have someone that just gets sent to me, I can't do that. I schedule the folks, and they know their responsibilities and that they respond to those. With 156 landowners and us only getting 34 permits, opening up all 156 parcels wouldn't work. It would be finished.

Dan Abeyta: If the LOA receives 35% of the tags, then how is it they can have 70% of the hunters on a single piece of private property?

Mike McCarrell: The way the rule is written, if you have one permit, you need to allow one public hunter to enter private ground. So, whether you get a permit or not, if you're a member of the LOA you have to allow access from that specific number of public hunters in to the entire acreage. They could all potentially want to hunt on one person's land. I can't let 35 people on my ground. It won't work.

**MOTION:**

**Randy Dearth** move to approve the proposal with the Diamond Mountain LOA variance.

**Joe Batty: Second**

**Favor: Rod Morrison, John Mathis, Mitch Hacking, Joe Batty, Randy Dearth, David Gordon**

**Opposed: Dan Abeyta, Carrie Messerly**

**Motion passed 6 to 2**

**8. UTAH HUNTER MENTORING PROGRAM (NEW RULE) - Greg Hansen, Assistant Attorney General**

**Questions from RAC:**

Joe Batty: I appreciate your looking towards the family. Can an uncle or aunt take a nephew or niece?

Greg Hansen: Classifications provided in rule are also provided in code. We don't have the authority from the Wildlife Code to do so. Based on how successful this program is in other states and divisions, that might be something we present in the future, but right now it's not.

Dan Abeyta: Is this just a big game program?

Greg Hansen: Right now we have limited it to all categories of big game permits. There are other limitations in the Wildlife Code that limit the possession of big game permits to only one big game antlered big game permit per species per year. That will remain consistent with this program. If a child draws an antlered big game permit, they would not qualify to be in this program that a mentor had drawn. We might propose to clarify that in rule prior to taking it to the Board.

Carrie Messerly: Can a child only have one permit?

Greg Hansen: The child can only have one antlered animal per species per season per year.

Carrie Messerly: So if one permit was for an elk and one was for a deer he could.

**Questions from Public:**

None

**Comments from Public:**

None

**Comments from RAC:**

Carrie Messerly: I am ecstatic about this program.

**MOTION:**

**Carrie Messerly move to accept as presented**

**Mitch Hacking: Second**

**Passed unanimously**

**9. DEDICATED HUNTER RULE AMENDMENTS - Bryan Christensen**

Proposed Rule Change

**Questions from RAC:**

John Mathis: Did you say if you don't complete your hours by the end of the third year you can buy those off?

Bryan Christensen: Right now, you have to pay for them. The penalty is that you can't ever apply for anything again until that's taken care of.

If you apply and do the first training and get a permit, you can't get your second permit until you've done your 16 hours. You can't get your third tag unless you do the remaining 16 hours. The people who owe a balance didn't get one permit or more. Very few people fall into that scenario, but they'll call us February 1st and say, "The computer won't let me apply for anything. What do I need to do?" Our response has been, "You owe us this amount of money." They might not be able to come up with the money but they can do service hours, which will meet the qualifications.

Carrie Messerly: Can you pay it off up front?

Bryan Christensen: Residents can buy 24 hours. Non-residents can buy all 32 hours.

John Messerly: So non-residents can pay theirs off without doing any service?

Bryan Christensen: Yes. The money that's paid into those hours goes into a general fund for Division purposes. We can allocate them to that project, or equipment, anything the Division needs. It's still a benefit to the Division.

Mitch Hacking: Where do you come up with your projects? Do you take input?

John Mathis: Nothing allowed on Diamond.

Bryan Christensen: We take a variety of project sources. Some of them come from Habitat folks, some come from our facilities. A lot of them are done on wildlife management areas, fencing, seeding. Some of them come from the US Forest Service. BLM does some as well. A lot of the federal agencies plan on

each year having a burst of volunteers. The other avenues we also partner up with are the big and little sportsman's groups. They will come up with projects like guzzlers, reseeding, transplants because it's a joint benefit. Sometimes Dedicated Hunters will come up with their own projects and submit them to us. Sometimes they're acceptable, sometimes they're not beneficial enough to wildlife.

**Questions from RAC:**

None

**Questions from Public:**

Joey Draper: I'm not a Dedicated Hunter but I have looked into it. Do you care if I want to get all 32 hours in one year?

Bryan Christensen: Yes, you can do that. A lot of Dedicated Hunters do like to do that in one year. Sometimes they have in excess of 200 hours.

**Comments from Public:**

None

**Comments from RAC:**

**MOTION:**

**Carrie Messerly move to approve**

**Dan Abeyta: Second.**

**Passed unanimously**

Wayne McAllister (public comment): I'll be here for a year. I considered dropping as the Chair but I will be here for a year.

**MOTION:**

**Joe Batty move to adjourn**

**Dan Abeyta: Second**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm**

**Next NER RAC meeting: December 12, 2013**

Central Region Advisory Council  
Springville Public Library  
45 S Main Street, Springville  
November 7, 2013 ☞ 6:30 p.m.

## **Motion Summary**

### **Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

MOTION: To accept the agenda and minutes as written  
Passed unanimously

### **Bucks, Bulls & OIAL 2014 Season Dates and Application Timeline**

MOTION: To support the Division's recommendations as presented  
Passed unanimously

### **CWMU Management Plans and Permit Numbers for 2014**

MOTION: To support the recommendations as presented  
Passed unanimously

### **Landowner Permit Numbers for 2014**

MOTION: To support the recommendations as presented  
Passed 9 with 1 abstention

### **Utah Hunter Mentoring Program (New Rule)**

MOTION: To support the mentoring program as presented  
Passed 9 to 1

### **Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments**

MOTION: To support the recommendations as presented  
Passed unanimously

### **Oak Creek Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Management Plan**

MOTION: To support the plan as presented  
Passed 9 to 1

Central Region Advisory Council  
Springville Public Library  
45 S Main Street, Springville  
November 7, 2013 @ 6:30 p.m.

**Members Present**

Matt Clark, Sportsmen  
Timothy Fehr, At large  
Larry Fitzgerald, Agriculture  
Sarah Flinders, Forest Service  
Michael Gates, BLM  
Karl Hirst, Sportsmen  
Richard Hansen, At large, Vice Chair  
Kristofer Marble, At large  
Gary Nielson, Sportsmen, Chair  
Danny Potts, Non-consumptive  
Christine Schmitz, Non-consumptive

**Members Absent**

Jay Price, Elected  
George Holmes, Agriculture

**Others Present**

John Fairchild, Regional Supervisor  
Bryan Christensen, Dedicated Hunter Program Manager  
Rod Nielsen  
Josee Seamons  
Dale Liechty, Regional Biologist  
Tom Becker, Regional Biologist  
Dennis Southerland, Regional Biologist  
Covy Jones, Wildlife Program Manager  
Riley Allred,  
Justin Shannon, Wildlife Program Manager  
Greg Hansen, Assistant Attorney General  
Scott McFarland, Wildlife Program Manager  
Scott Root, Conservation Outreach Manager

- 
- 1) **Approval of the Agenda and Minutes (Action)**  
- Gary Nielson, RAC Chair

**VOTING**

**Motion was made by Timothy Fehr to accept the agenda and minutes as written  
Seconded by Kristofer Marble  
Motion passed unanimously**

- 2) **Wildlife Board Meeting Update (Information)**  
- Gary Nielson, RAC Chair

- 3) **Regional Update (Information)**  
- John Fairchild, Central Regional Supervisor

**Wildlife**

- Lots of positive feedback from the pheasant hunt. Releases will continue this week and next. WMAs listed on our website.

- Ten Rocky Mountain Goats moved to Mt. Nebo from Willard Peak herd (in addition to the 10 moved earlier from the Tushar herd).
- Highland City urban deer control hunt has not made the news, so all is well. Haven't taken as many deer as they had hoped (20 vs. 100)
- Urban wildlife management plan in the works

#### Habitat

- P-J chaining project underway at Dairy Fork WMA
- Upland game projects (food plots) at Carr Fork, Nephi, Santaquin WMAs
- Seeding 12,000 acres at Patch Fire and chaining 7,000 acres

#### Aquatics

- Electro-shocking at Diamond Fork and Sixth Water
- Board approved the establishment of a refuge population of least chub in a private pond near Fairview
- Possession limit raised to twice the daily bag, except for Strawberry and Flaming Gorge
- First phase of the Main Creek restoration completed (Wallsburg)
- Fall fishing very good right now

#### Conservation Outreach

- Hunter Ed Plus pilot program provided 150 new hunters with mentored pheasant hunts at Wasatch Wing and Clay CHA and Four-Mile CHA this fall
- Outreach section in the process of developing the new wildlife recreation program (shooting sports, mentored hunting and fishing, events, Hunter Education, etc.). Purpose is to offer programs that increase participation in hunting and fishing (recruitment and retention).

#### Law Enforcement

- CR law enforcement officers planning winter range patrols to curtail poaching on critical mule deer winter ranges

#### **4) Bucks, Bulls & OIAL Season Dates and Application Timeline (Action)**

- **Justin Shannon, Wildlife Program Coordinator**

#### **Questions from the RAC**

Danny Potts – With the bison hunt, how many permits will there be?

Justin Shannon – Those numbers will be recommended in the spring but it will be less than ten. It's just a handful to get that hunt established.

Kristofer Marble – With mule deer transplant locations, I didn't see any plan to transplant deer so are we just looking at approving the locations?

Justin Shannon – Exactly, according to code if we are going to transplant wildlife they need to occur in a plan which is why we are doing an addendum to the plan. We have to provide release sites, which is what we are doing now and it has to go through the public process. So we are laying that foundation so later on in the year or next year when the time comes when we transplant deer, and I think we will, it's an effort to be very transparent about where we are going to take these things and what we want to do with them. We didn't want to get them in hand and then ask where we can take them.

Kristofer Marble – That makes sense and I think maybe it's a discussion we can have down the road but I think the concern is there is obviously a transplant that has happened and we are in the middle of that. I know in this case SFW has fronted the money but I know the public would be very concerned about the cost benefit there and how much is it costing us to do that compared to what the benefit is there.

Justin Shannon – Cost has come up a lot with this. Does it cost as much to trap deer as it does other big game? The reality of it is it depends. If we use a drop net that is very minimal and you can do that with deer in the winter. You can do clover traps. There are other methods. Even if you had a contract for 100 deer with a helicopter because it is so quick it is a lot less money. Those are good questions to ask, is this going to be worth it and is this a door our agency wants to open and see if this can be an effective management tool for us? There are a lot of unknowns but it is something we want to try.

Kristopher Marble – Do you know what the current mortality rate is on the existing study that is going on?

Justin Shannon – I always preface it by saying it is really premature and preliminary but of the 102 trans-located deer 44 have died. Right now we are 50 to 60 percent survival. How we finish up the year and how we do next year is still to be determined. Those are the data.

Kristopher Marble – But we haven't had a winter on those and we are almost 50 percent.

Justin Shannon – For mule deer the most difficult time is March April and May during that transition period because their reserves are used up and they are giving birth. I would argue that we have already been through the toughest time for them but we do have another winter coming.

Kristopher Marble – As a comparison do you know what the mortality rate is on resident deer?

Justin Shannon – Of the 50 deer they radio collard they have only lost five to my knowledge so it is better.

Richard Hansen – On the Book Cliffs, you want to split that unit in half. Can you tell us what the buck doe ratios are north versus south?

Justin Shannon – I think on the south we are 37 and I am not sure on the north but I think they were about 27. We are always 10 to 12 bucks per 100 does more on the south compared to the north and it made for an interesting dynamic and I don't know if this RAC heard it but I know at other RACs people would come and discuss this issue and the guys on the north would say the quality is going down and we need to cut tags and on the south we are saying how do you cut tags when we are above our 35 bucks per 100 does. This was a way to really shift permits and hunting pressure to the south and lighten it up on the north.

Richard Hansen – So what you are trying to accomplish is just to get the hunting pressure to even out?

Justin Shannon – Yeah.

Richard Hansen – I spent six days there with my son this year and they really need to consider a management buck hunt up there. There were so many three-points and most guys won't shoot them until they get to be four-points.

Justin Shannon – We hear that on a lot of our limited entry units. If you are going to manage for 35 bucks per 100 does you better expect to see some management bucks out there because in order to have that many they are not all going to be top quality. You are going to have some junk in there and that is to be expected with a high buck to doe ratio.

Richard Hansen – But I think if you took it out of the regular limited entry permits and not increased permits it would be fine.

Justin Shannon – Those are things that we will explore because it has come up many times.

Karl Hirst – Can you provide us some more specific information on the grouping of the three goat units?

Justin Shannon – Essentially on Lone Peak and Box Elder Peak over the years the survey data has come back more depleted each year. We see fewer and fewer goats there each year. On other parts of the unit like on Timp they are doing fine. What we want to do is not carve out areas and send hunters to Lone Peak if the goats have migrated one way or another. We thought this is a way to ensure we are not selling guys camping permits especially for a once-in-a-lifetime species. That way if the goats are on Lone Peak or Box Elder Peak hunters can still access them and if they aren't seeing what they want they can go over to Timp because Timp is doing really well.

Karl Hirst – So are you going to combine all the permit numbers for those three units or reduce the number of permits?

Covy Jones – I guess what I would say is we will address that during recommendations and we haven't decided that yet.

Justin Shannon – I will say we want our hunters to have good experiences especially for mountain goats and other OIAL species.

Richard Hansen – I noticed you are going to put the Nebo for rocky mountain bighorn sheep in with the Wasatch. I think we talked about whether or not we should kill those bighorn on Nebo. Is the reason you are doing that is because you don't know how long they are going to last, do you?

Justin Shannon – When you say kill, what do you mean the population or individuals?

Richard Hansen – You have to kill some of those rams that are going to die of old age.

Justin Shannon – If we have hunting opportunity on the landscape especially for an animal like bighorn sheep we just want to take advantage of it.

Richard Hansen – There are certainly not that many there that would justify hunting them.

Justin Shannon – Not as their own unit but I would say if you had an eight and a half or nine year old ram out there why wouldn't we include it. I don't think it's a standalone unit but we would only be harvesting males which wouldn't impact the population anyway. It's a way to provide opportunity without any population impact.

Richard Hansen – There are a few of those there.

Justin Shannon – We hear that on Timp and Nebo. Guys are up there seeing these and we just want to open it up a little bit.

Sarah Flinders – We received a letter from Ryan Cowley asking us to consider not removing the bull elk from the Sanpete Valley Extended Archery hunt. Can you explain that to me so we can better address his concerns?

Covy Jones – I spoke with Ryan. I think you have to understand a little bit of the history and that bull elk hunt was initiated because there was an issue with bull elk on highway 89. We no longer have that issue. We didn't want to take away opportunity so we continue to have the hunt, you just can't harvest a bull, you can still harvest a cow. I spoke with Ryan and he shared his concerns with me and I explained to him what I just explained to you and I encouraged him to participate in the public process and voice his concern.

Gary Nielsen – One of his main points in his letter was that he didn't feel like that had much of an impact on the elk population in the Sanpete valley anymore because there just wasn't a problem but that it was a lot of fun for a lot of people.

Justin Shannon – It's hard to argue with that perspective. It isn't having an impact. We are killing less than ten bulls on that unit every year. I think the issue is there is a limited entry elk hunt and then turning around and providing permits over-the-counter essentially for those same bulls. It's more of a social issue in my mind as to what we do with it.

### **Questions from the Public**

David Woodhouse – For the sheep hunt, you only plan on one or two tags, right?

Justin Shannon – We are going to survey it tomorrow actually and that will dictate how many permits we issue.

Dave Woodhouse – My concern is and I talked to Ryan Foutz with Utah FNAWS and we need to address the availability of the unit to the governor's tag and the sportsman's tag. I remember in the past when we had the Rock Canyon hunt and the Timp hunt they were every other year and I am just worried if there does turn out to be one really good ram and you end up with a draw tag and the sportsman tag or governor's tag hunter goes up and shoots it they are left with nothing to hunt for the draw tag.

Justin Shannon – My thoughts on that are if you don't have the resource to take two rams out of a unit you probably shouldn't be opening it up. If we survey and even if we had it open two years and people are not seeing them then there is no sense in keeping the area open. In my mind a lot of our bighorn units are like that. They are less than 100 animals similar to what this is going to be. I guess that those types of permit holders are going to go where they have a good chance to get a good ram. I think we either open it up to all of it or not at all.

Dave Woodhouse – I was just wondering if we could just limit it to one tag.

Mike Christensen – If you don't find a mature ram in the area will you not include that in the guidebook?

Justin Shannon – Sheep flights are tough because you always miss a lot of them. Our agency has received a lot of reports from guys seeing mature rams on Timp and Nebo and a lot of times from the helicopter it's a needle in a hay stack. It's interesting. Sometimes we survey some of these units and we don't see these rams but these guys check them in at our offices and we say we would have remembered that one from the survey and he wasn't there. There are a couple ways to go about this. One is ground truth in surveys and the other is what are the hunters bringing in. If you are not seeing them and hunters are not bringing them in then that is the time to shut the hunt down. To answer your question we would probably leave it open this year just based on reports we have had from this summer.

Mike Christensen – On the Box Elder/Lone Peak/Timp goat herds is there concern if the Lone Peak and the Box Elder units are struggling that people will transfer onto those units? There are goats there and they will kill goats. Are we worried about drawing them over to those areas?

Justin Shannon – I think if it were a permit guys could get year after year but it is a once-in-a-lifetime so the guys that get it realize that there are nice goats over there even though the densities are low but then they can't do anything about it because their chance to hunt a goat is over. I think that is going to be a reality but I don't know if it would change the recommendation at all. I can certainly see it happening.

### **Comments from the Public**

Joe Adamson – I want to comment on the weapons we are using nowadays. When I started hunting in 1956 we had plenty of deer. We used 30.30 with open sites and we all got our deer. Back then I was able to buy a Henry's tag over the counter for two bucks. My brother and I went down there and the only trouble we had was trying to find the biggest one. I have a lifetime license but haven't shot a deer for five years because I

haven't found one I liked. I think it's ridiculous that we have these rifles that they scope in with a range finder and shoot 800 or 1,200 yards. That is not fair to the deer. We need to get rid of that crap and save some deer. Also the bows, my boy is a bow hunter and he would get mad if he heard me say this but he has killed deer 150 yards away. He practices in my field and hits the target at 200 yards. If we get rid of the range finder he can't do that. Some of these bows are shooting at 325 feet per second. I have a farm in Fairview and have had it since '72. It's a hay field and it's in the mouth of a canyon called birch creek. We can tell how the deer are doing and how the cougars are doing. The last few years you have kind of put a damper on the cougars. Back in '72 there were more deer than you wanted. We have seen twin fawns more than we have since 1970 because we have hammered the cougars and coyotes. I saw so many two point deer slaughtered this year. We need to try three point or better and save some of these deer. Get rid of the rangefinders and we could save a lot of deer. You could make it a one year suspension if they are caught with a rangefinder.

Ken Strong – I know Justin just got put in this position because he knows so much that there was no one that could compete with him. I think the Division has done really well on these plans that they are coming up with both in the transplants and everything else on this and I just want you to know that I support the Division in their proposals that they have come forth with today. Thank you.

Ken Oetker – UBA – We would like to say that we also agree with the recommendations that the DWR is presenting today. Thanks.

Troy Justinsen – SFW – We would like to support the Division's recommendations. We do have one concern considering the split on the sheep on the Range Creek and Rattlesnake. I was out there opening day and there were 17 trucks in Desolation Canyon. My fear is that if you split those seasons you are still going to have the guys that drew the late season during the early season scouting. It is a catch 22. Do you still allow those guys that amount of time and just deal with it or do you split it up. We appreciate the Division and all the work that they have done.

Dave Woodhouse – I support the Division's recommendations. I would like to bring up the bighorn sheep here on the Wasatch Front. If you could address the issue with the sportsman's tag holder and the governor's tag holder being able to hunt the unit if we open it up. I know in the past when Timp and Provo was open we had those separated where one or the other could hunt them in a year to control it. We do have a finite number of rams and they are there. There might be enough with the three units but not on one unit. We have been watching the transplant on the deer a lot and if we have the predators under control the success rate is a lot higher on the survival of the deer. I think it is a good idea that the Division is picking units scattered throughout the state so we can move deer quickly from all areas in the state. I support the other recommendations from the Division and from what you can see we are actually growing our opportunities to hunt in this state. More bison hunts and extra sheep hunts. We really appreciate the work that is being done. Thanks.

Mike Christensen – I just want to commend the Division on changing the youth age to 17 and having that across the board. It covers minors and makes everything on level

footing. I do have a concern with combining the three goat units into one. Having grown up at the base of those mountains my whole life I do know that there is a perception that Lone Peak and Box Elder produce better goats than Timp and that people don't have to fight the crowds on Timp. If the population from the Box Elder/Lone Peak units can't support a hunt that if we have people transfer over from the Timp area to hunt and most people can't judge what a true trophy goat is so they get up into those areas and they shoot a goat. If those areas can't sustain the harvest pressure that they are receiving currently why would we want to put more pressure on them by bringing the Timp hunters over onto those units? If you want to combine units then just combine the Lone Peak and Box Elder units and don't include the Timp.

### **RAC Discussion**

Justin Shannon – With Dave's comment on alternating the sportsman tag and the governor's tag from the agency's perspective there is one thing to having consistency across the board but this is purely a social issue. If the RAC wanted to go that route we could make that happen.

Kristopher Marble – Justin, could you talk a little bit about combining the three goat units. Especially with the pressure on Timp.

Justin Shannon – That is the beauty of the public process is we get to see different angles from the public. From the agency's perspective what we were trying to do is just ensure that if you drew that tag there would be a goat there to be had. With our flight data declining the way it is and seeing the growth in other areas along the Wasatch Front we think it's more of a migration issue than anything. Mike brings up some good points. The point we were coming from is we didn't want to have a guy wait so many years for his once-in-a-lifetime tag and get there and the goats aren't there just because they're moving around on us. We were just trying to expand those boundaries to give a guy a chance to go get a goat.

Kristopher Marble – Is there a concern of overharvesting?

Justin Shannon – I don't think our permit numbers are that high that we are concerned about over harvest. We don't have nanny hunts, just hunters choice.

### **VOTING**

**Motion was made by Kristofer Marble to support the Division's recommendations as presented**

**Seconded by Matt Clark**

**In Favor: Karl Hirst, Larry Fitzgerald, Kris Marble, Sarah Flinders, Matt Clark, Christine Schmitz, Danny Potts, Timothy Fehr, Michael Gates, Richard Hansen**

**Opposed: None**

**Motion passed unanimously**

### **5) CWMU Management Plans and Permit Numbers for 2014 (Action)**

**- Scott McFarlane, Wildlife Program Coordinator**

### **Questions from the RAC**

Larry Fitzgerald – Spring Canyon you recommended denial of it because of insufficient contiguous lands. They have just under 5,000 acres and were short 8 acres.

Scott McFarlane – The numbers have changed through this process. Let me bring up the map on this to explain it. This is a map of the proposed Spring Canyon CWMU. By rule in order to make the minimum acreage properties can't be touching corner to corner. If you look at the two pieces they are touching corner to corner. What the CWMU has requested is that we allow the SITLA 600 acres right in the middle to be included in the CWMU to join that up and to make the minimum acreage. If the SITLA section was included with all the other acres, there is also 160

acres of BLM property that would be included; this number would come up to 5,017 acres. Without the SITLA property it comes up substantially short of the 5,000 acres. The only way that a public property can be included is one, that the public property is completely surrounded by private property or otherwise inaccessible to the public. The second criteria is that the land is needed to make a definable boundary or the third one is that it is needed to reach the management objectives for that unit for that wildlife species. The first one it doesn't qualify for because the SITLA property does have public access according to the region.

Larry Fitzgerald – So why couldn't the BLM property be taken out of the CWMU and leave it as public property? Maybe I misunderstood.

Scott McFarlane – What I am saying is the BLM land does qualify because they are completely surrounded by private property and basically there is no public access to them. Those can be included. It's the SITLA section in the middle and it is bordered by BLM on the south and it does have public access. As much as we would like to put this into a CWMU it doesn't fit the rule.

Larry Fitzgerald – I think that is a shame because it is so close to meeting the criteria.

Scott McFarlane – We visited with the people who are trying to get this put together and probably the best solution is to approach SITLA to purchase some property so it is not touching corner to corner to make it compliant. That would have to be done in the future. It couldn't be done this year obviously.

Timothy Fehr – We have 119 CWMUs and we only had 13 renewal applications and I think you said it is a three year cycle. Does that mean we are going to have 100 next year?

Scott McFarlane – Next year I think we are going to have close to 80 renewals. It's going to be grueling.

### **Questions from the Public**

Floyd Hatch – I am a real estate broker and I represent Mr. Gatherum who is the owner of the proposed Spring Canyon CWMU. I also have my own CWMU and Scott has been a wonderful help and friend on ours up in Morgan County. We are in this together. We are a team. Our contention was that the public access isn't what it appears to be. The only access to the SITLA section is coming right up the middle of that canyon. One would have to hike well over a mile of ground. Nobody is trying to pull anything. We understand what needs to be done. We'll be back. We are talking with SITLA. There is one more piece that we are working on a lease right now so there will be 40 more acres that come in. There is not going to be an issue of the 5,000 acres, we will have that. It's just a matter of how we are going to get there. I just want to make sure that we made it clear that we weren't trying to pull something. We're working on that and we still believe that the public access to that SITLA piece is pretty difficult to do.

### **Comments from the Public**

None

### **RAC Discussion**

Richard Hansen – One of the things that I am concerned with and some of the comments I have received is that we are taking public ground away from the public. I know there is a way to do it and it is legal but that doesn't sit well. That is a lot of acreage to take away from the public. I don't care if they are backpacking or walking their dog. If you buy it that, it is a different issue. I think we need to be careful about taking it away from the public. The public pays for the opportunity and I think there could be a real push back and I think we need to be aware of that.

### **VOTING**

**Motion was made by Kristofer Marble to support the recommendations as presented  
Seconded by Timothy Fehr**

**In Favor: Danny Potts, Christine Schmitz, Sarah Flinders, Timothy Fehr, Larry Fitzgerald, Richard Hansen, Kristofer Marble, Karl Hirst, Michael Gates, Matt Clark**

**Opposed: None**

**Motion passed unanimously**

**6) Landowner Permit Numbers for 2014 (Action)**

**- Scott McFarlane, Wildlife Program Coordinator**

**Questions from the RAC**

Kristofer Marble – Can you give some more clarification on the split recommendations?

Scott McFarlane – There is a total number of permits that is recommended for a limited entry unit. For example for an elk unit if it had 50 permits and the landowners association had ten percent of the properties in their association then they would qualify for five permits. If that number goes down then we recommend a corresponding decrease in landowner permits. If permits are lowered it is lowered for the public permits as well as the landowner permits.

Kristopher Marble – So if you don't lower it for the landowner association then either you have to take more permits from the public or harvest more elk than you want to harvest.

Scott McFarlane – That is correct.

Larry Fitzgerald – On the Vernon unit why are you reducing permits?

Tom Becker – It is basically like anything else. When we make recommendations some years we have more permits and sometimes we have less. We are on a one year lag with the landowner associations so everything is built off of what happened last year and last year the recommendation was to go down based on buck to doe ratios and fawn to doe ratios. It corresponds to the 14 percent that the landowners association qualifies for. The chairman asks for 35 every year regardless of what it is.

**Questions from the Public**

None

**Comments from the Public**

None

**RAC Discussion**

None

**VOTING**

**Motion was made by Kristofer Marble to support the recommendations as presented  
Seconded by Timothy Fehr**

**In Favor: Danny Potts, Christine Schmitz, Sarah Flinders, Timothy Fehr, Richard Hansen, Kristofer Marble, Karl Hirst, Michael Gates, Matt Clark**

**Opposed: Larry Fitzgerald**

**Motion passed 9 to 1**

**7) Utah Hunter Mentoring Program (New Rule) (Action)**

**- Greg Hansen, Assistant Attorney General**

**Questions from the RAC**

Gary Nielson – Is this all big game?

Greg Hansen – Yes.

Gary Nielson – So a kid could shoot a mountain goat on his dad's tag and then get his own OIAL goat permit.

Greg Hansen – Yes. It is not actually a transfer of the permit.

Matt Clark – Hats off to the legislature and the Division for promoting this activity. I think this is a wonderful program and hopefully encouraging the RAC members to approve this as well.

Richard Hansen – Does the child have to be a resident of the state?

Greg Hansen – Yes. The mentor can be either. We were limited to those classifications by code.

Karl Hirst – I too really like this program but the only concern I have with it is that you have one permit and one animal and two guns. I would love to see this move forward but as long as that is in the motion I will have to vote against it.

Greg Hansen – We had those same concerns as well and we really put the responsibility on the mentor to make sure they are in control of the hunting situation.

Danny Potts – So if dad swaps the permit the money making opportunity is the ten dollar fee and that would be charged each time the mentor changed children.

Greg Hansen – We would charge the administrative processing fee for each sharing process.

Danny Potts – So if the hunt was two weeks long and you had enough kids you could just keep swapping it.

Greg Hansen – Right now there is a ten day application period so you are going to be limited by the amount of time it takes to process.

Danny Potts – So it would realistically be two kids.

Greg Hansen – At most.

Sarah Flinders – The Division is a champion at getting special needs kids out for fishing. And a lot of our sportsmen groups in conjunction with the Division are also champions getting these disabled kids out. Is there any way to roll that over into that group of children at some time?

Greg Hansen – At this point it would include a youth with a life threatening illness so those children probably wouldn't qualify under the code right now. We would have to go to the legislature and request amendments to the code. I can imagine there would be some support for that.

### **Questions from the Public**

Mike Christensen – So if a disabled mentor qualifies for the extended hunting portion of the tag can an able bodied mentee hunt during that portion as well?

Greg Hansen – That is a curve ball. The way we have written the rule is that disability accommodations are based on the type of permit and the individual using the permit. So because the permit would still be in the disabled mentor's name my interpretation is that the mentee would be able to go out in the field with them. That is something we would have to look at. If they are sharing the permit and there is an allowance for the mentor to be out in the field then the mentee should be able to go with them. That would be my gut feeling. That is definitely something we are going to have to look at.

Mike Christensen – Is it a 40 percent disability to qualify?

Greg Hansen – There is a specific rule for disabled accommodations and then we also have ADA accommodations that are outside of administrative rule too. It comes down to really a case by case basis in a lot of situations.

### **Comments from the Public**

Dave Woodhouse – Representing SFW – We spent a lot of time getting this approved through the legislature. We really support this. I haven't heard anything bad. On a personal note I agree with Karl. The two guns and one license, I don't like that. I would like to see the RAC members address that and only allow one gun to be carried by the mentee. Also if the disabled hunter is the mentor they are still limited to where they can hunt. I am real excited to see this program go forward. Thanks for your time.

### **RAC Discussion**

Gary Nielson – So if a guy is restricted to his vehicle because he is disabled and he is mentoring a kid can the kid hunt from the vehicle?

Greg Hansen – The type of accommodation would be specific to the individual but if the mentor and mentee pair are hunting together we would have to make sure that if the child was the one taking the animal they were within close proximity to the mentor still. Hunting from a vehicle might be allowed for the mentor but how you allow that for the mentee when they don't have that same disability is something we would have to look closely at and sort out. Some good points.

Gary Nielson – Can you share the logic behind bringing two guns?

Greg Hansen – Yes. One point was if we are offering once-in-a-lifetime species opportunities and you take a child out for the first time and the child freezes up then the parent has potentially lost their OIAL opportunity for that animal. That was one thing that came up. There were a lot of situations like that brought up. We are very aware of the possible law enforcement issue that could come up and we don't want that child's first hunting experience to be a traumatic one.

John Fairchild – The child may require a different gun, maybe a different caliber.

Matt Clark – Don't you have to decide that 10 days before? Doesn't the permit have to be in either the mentor or the youth's name?

Greg Hansen – It is shared and is always in the mentors name.

Timothy Fehr – In the legislation that was passed did it specify how many weapons could be in the field?

Greg Hansen – No.

Danny Potts – I agree that two guns is the way to go. I was mentoring a kid and he put the deer down and then he froze up or couldn't see it and I had to take the animal. I think you have done a great job and I think it will work.

Karl Hirst – I guess I see the two weapons differently. If I am going to share the tag I want to share the hunt and make that decision before. There may be some what ifs but I think there are what ifs both ways. One gun is the way to share the hunt, not two.

### **Comments from the Public**

Ken Oetker – I just want to say I agree. I don't mind seeing the two weapons out there. We are all there trying to teach ethics. We have all been out on the mountain and could have taken more than one animal. That is what we are all here about. We are trying to teach ethics. We've all been by somebody that has been flustered. I still get flustered shooting something. If I had an animal that was getting away and I could still legally fill that tag I would want to be able to do that for my kid to hopefully preserve that experience otherwise it may ruin it for them. Thanks.

Larry Fitzgerald – Every youth hunter should have a mentor accompanying him. It should be mandatory.

**VOTING**

**Motion was made by Matt Clark to support the mentoring program as presented  
Seconded by Kristofer Marble**

**In Favor: Danny Potts, Christine Schmitz, Sarah Flinders, Timothy Fehr, Larry Fitzgerald, Richard Hansen, Kristofer Marble, Michael Gates, Matt Clark  
Opposed: Karl Hirst**

**Motion passed 9 to 1**

**8) Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments (Action)**

**- Bryan Christensen, Dedicated Hunter Program Coordinator**

**Questions from the RAC**

Sarah Flinders – Will dedicated hunters still be able to complete all their hours in their first year?  
Bryan Christensen – Yes.

Kristofer Marble – I am assuming the definition of the general deer season means the end of the extended archery season as well.  
Bryan Christensen – Yes.

**Questions from the Public**

None

**Comments from the Public**

None

**RAC Discussion**

Sarah Flinders – How many years has the program been running?  
Bryan Christensen – Since 1995.

Danny Potts – I really like this change. One thing I have noticed over the years is the initial crunch not just on the hunters but on the Division. It becomes a hassle for the Division to deal with it all at once. This will help spread it out.  
Gary Nielson – I like that about it too. This will make it so you can effectively use the hours.

**VOTING**

**Motion was made by Matt Clark to support the recommendations as presented  
Seconded by Karl Hirst**

**In Favor: Danny Potts, Sarah Flinders, Christine Schmitz, Timothy Fehr, Larry Fitzgerald, Richard Hansen, Kristofer Marble, Karl Hirst, Michael Gates, Matt Clark  
Opposed: None**

**Motion passed unanimously**

**9) Oak Creek Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Management Plan (Action)**

**- Riley Peck, Wildlife Biologist**

**Questions from the RAC**

Michael Gates – Have you been working with the BLM and do you know that they have trailed sheep there in the past?

Riley Peck – Yes they do trail sheep in the pass and they go out into the west desert and they come from Sanpete County if I am right. We are working with the BLM on that and looking at possible options to maybe help or enhance them with possible trailering options.

Michael Gates – Fillmore would be willing to work with you on that. I'm just not sure who you have been working with.

Riley Peck – We have been working with Mace Crane.

Gary Nielson – There are all those big sheep ranches on the Gilsons.

Riley Peck – Yes. The Gilsons are the sheep allotments we talked about to the north. One of them is seven miles north of projected sheep habitat and the other is five and a half miles north. The closer one holds sheep for just roughly over a month. I think their allotment is for 33 days. The one further north holds it for about six or seven months. So they do have the sheep there that we discussed. There could be the potentially be a wild sheep wandering down into that area. We would address that according to the statewide sheep management plan. Currently as you see it is not ideal sheep habitat. There is the option that they go down into there but it is not going to draw them. There are a lot of barriers like the Sevier River and highway 132. Also there are numerous amounts of fencing from cattle that are in there. That is not saying that it is impossible or will never happen.

Richard Hansen – I would like to see it work. Nebo has been an area that we have fought to keep them there. I noticed there is 507,000 acres of private land there. What is to keep a private landowner from raising sheep there?

Riley Peck – That is a good point. As we looked at the areas nearby there were not currently any backyard flocks. The public that I have talked to understands that is a concern. That is something we will have to be mindful of and keep our eye out for.

Danny Potts – Do you plan on chaining the dead trees from the burn?

Riley Peck – It depends on which area they are in. Some of them can be chained quite easily but some would be a little tougher so it may fall to a lop and scatter project. It will be addressed on a case by case basis but chaining certainly is an option in a few areas.

Danny Potts – So we would be looking for other habitat improvements from that burn, correct?

Riley Peck – Yes. To address that further, after the burn happened we worked with different land management agencies and worked with the reseeding to put in seeding that would benefit all wildlife including wild sheep.

Larry Fitzgerald – Are you trying to block off the sheep trail?

Riley Peck – No, we are aware of that and understand the time of year that it comes through. If we do anything it would be to try and make it more affordable for the rancher to trailer his sheep rather than trail them.

Larry Fitzgerald – It is probably already cheaper to trailer the sheep. Those sheep trails are dedicated trails and there are not many of them left. I don't think it's possible for DWR to take away a sheep trail.

Riley Peck – And we are not looking to do so.

Richard Hansen – Basically you are trying to go to the landowner and try to help them financially to load them into trailers and take them to the desert.

Riley Peck – All options like that will be explored. If we get the cooperation and the funds that is something we are willing to look into but we are not looking to change or take away the sheep trail or stop him from any operation. We understand that is a risk that we are going to have to be aware of. We understand the time of year that comes through and we will watch that closely. We are certainly not looking to take away his sheep trail.

### **Questions from the Public**

Dave Woodhouse – Will the sheep be moved this winter if all goes through? From the Newfoundland?

Riley Peck – Yes.

Justin Shannon – As it sits now it may be both from the Newfoundlands as well as Antelope Island. The Newfoundland sheep came from Antelope Island.

### **Comments from the Public**

Dave Woodhouse – self and SFW – We are real excited about this move. It has been a long time in the making and the fire did speed things up. We need another place to move the sheep from the Newfoundlands because they are getting pretty populated and whenever they sheep population gets that dense they start having disease problems. This is a good problem to have and reflects well on the DWR and all the work they have done. As far as the conflict with the other sheep I know there has been some discussion through FNAWS and working with the BLM to fix the fence and mitigate the possibility of the wild sheep moving into the areas where they trail through. I don't think that should be too big of a concern at this point. Thanks.

### **RAC Discussion**

Sarah Flinders – I was told I needed to read this letter from the Fishlake Forest supervisor addressed to the southern region RAC chair. Dear Mr. Black, This letter is in reference to the Oak Creek Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep management plan that has been proposed to set the framework for establishing bighorn sheep in southern Utah. The Forest Service appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on this plan and proposed introductions of the bighorn sheep into southern Utah. The Forest Service has made the following observations regarding this proposed plan. First, we acknowledge that if the proposed introduction is implemented it would occur on approximately eight percent of the land administered by the Fishlake National Forest Fillmore Ranger District. Number two, the Fishlake National Forest has reviewed the land and the resource management plan and finds that the proposed introduction of bighorn sheep is consistent with language contained within the plan which speaks to allowing for the establishment of desirable species on sites that can supply the habitat needs of the species. Number three, the Forest Service has determined that there are currently no sheep grazing on lands administered by the Forest Service in the canyon range portion of the Fillmore Ranger District. Number four; there is adequate habitat for bighorn sheep along with the cattle, deer and elk currently grazing in the area. Based on the information above I have concluded that approval of the Oak Creek Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep management plan by the Wildlife Board an introduction of bighorn sheep in the canyon range is not in conflict with the Fishlake land and resource management plan and the Forest Service supports this proposal. In closing we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments to this proposed plan and look forward to working cooperatively with the state in the implementation phase of this project. We look forward to working with the Division in the future on any needed changes to the management plan based on natural resource conditions and monitoring. If you have questions please contact Ron Rodriguez or myself.

### **VOTING**

**Motion was made by Kristofer Marble to support the plan as presented**

**Seconded by Richard Hansen**

**In Favor: Danny Potts, Christine Schmitz, Sarah Flinders, Timothy Fehr, Richard Hansen, Kristofer Marble, Karl Hirst, Michael Gates, Matt Clark**

**Opposed: Larry Fitzgerald**

**Motion passed 9 to 1**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.**

**In attendance: 10 public, 30 total**

**Next board meeting December 5, 2013 at the DNR boardroom, Salt Lake**

**Next RAC meeting December 3, 2013 at Springville Public Library**

**Northern Regional Advisory Council Meeting**

November 06, 2013

Brigham City Community Center

Brigham City, Utah

**Summary of Motions**

**Meeting Begins: 6:06 p.m.**

**Approval of the Agenda**

**Motion: Move to approve the amended agenda, Item #5 to read Bucks, Bulls & OIAL 2014 Season Dates and Application Timeline and Amendments to Rule R657-5.**

**Motion Passes: Unanimous**

**Approval of the Sept 18, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

**Motion: Move to approve the amended minutes of Sept 18, 2013.**

**Motion Passes: Unanimous**

**Bucks, Bulls & OIAL 2014 Season Dates and Application Timeline and Amendments to Rule R657-5**

**Motion: Recommend the Wildlife Board approve Bucks, Bulls & OIAL 2014 Season Dates and Application Timeline and Rule R657-5 Amendments as presented.**

**Motion: To amend the original motion by removing the addendum to the Mule Deer Management Plan allowing the transplant of deer.**

**Motion to Amend Fails: For: 5 Against: 8**

**Original Motion Passes: For: 8 Against: 5**

**CWMU Management Plans and Permit Numbers for 2014**

**Motion: Recommend the Wildlife Board approve CWMU Management Plans and Permit Numbers for 2014 with the Division's recommendations.**

**Motion Passes: Unanimous**

**Landowner Permit Numbers for 2014**

**Motion: Recommend the Wildlife Board approve Landowner Permit Numbers for 2014 as presented with the Division's recommendations.**

**Motion Passes: Unanimous**

**Utah Hunter Mentoring Program (New Rule)**

**Motion: Recommend the Wildlife Board approve the Utah Hunter Mentoring program as presented.**

**Motion Passes: Unanimous**

**Motion: The Northern Regional Advisory Council requests the Wildlife Board encourage the DWR to ask the Legislature to amend the applicable code to include nieces and nephews as qualifying minors, remove the residency requirement and remove language inconsistent with DWR rule age definitions.**

**Motion Passes: Unanimous**

**Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments**

**Motion: Recommend the Wildlife Board approve the Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments as presented.**

**Motion Passes: Unanimous**

**Motion: The Northern Regional Advisory Council requests the Wildlife Board encourage the DWR to ask the Legislature to amend the applicable code to remove the application restrictions for youth 12 years of age or older to apply for Big Game Permits.**

**Motion Passes: Unanimous**

**Meeting Adjournment**

**Motion: Move we adjourn.**

**Motion Passes: Acclamation by RAC Chair**

**Meeting Ends: 9:32 p.m.**

**Northern Regional Advisory Council Meeting**

November 06, 2013

Brigham City Community Center

Brigham City, Utah

**Draft Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Begins: 6:06 p.m.**

**RAC Present**

John Blazzard- Agric  
Robert Byrnes- Chair  
John Cavitt- Noncon.  
Paul Cowley-Forest Service  
Joel Ferry- Agric  
James Gaskill- At Large  
Russ Lawrence- At Large  
Jon Leonard- Sportsman  
Kristin Purdy-Noncon.  
G. Lynn Nelson- Elected  
Bruce Sillitoe- BLM  
Bryce Thurgood- At Large  
Craig Van Tassell- Sportsman  
John Wall- At Large

**DWR Present**

Jodie Anderson  
Scott McFarlane  
Justin Dolling  
Justin Shannon  
Greg Hansen  
Bryan Christensen  
Darren Debloois  
Mike Canning  
Dave Rich  
Chad Wilson  
Jim Christensen  
Scott Walker  
Greg Sheehan  
Mitch Lane  
Torrey Christopherson  
Dean Mitchell  
Corrie Wallace  
Scott Davis

**Wildlife Board**

**RAC Excused**

R. Jefre Hicks- At Large

**Agenda:**

Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure  
Approval of Agenda  
Approval of Sept 18, 2013 Meeting Minutes  
Old RAC Business  
Regional Update  
Bucks, Bulls & OIAL 2014 Season Dates and Application Timeline and Amendments to Rule R657-5  
CWMU Management Plans and Permit Numbers for 2014  
Landowner Permit Numbers for 2014  
Utah Hunter Mentoring Program (New Rule)  
Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments

## **Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure**

Welcome: Robert Byrnes-Chair

Introduction of RAC Members

RAC Procedure: Robert Byrnes-Chair

### **Item 1. Approval of Agenda**

Robert Byrnes, RAC Chair

**Motion:** Jim Gaskill- Move to approve the amended agenda, item #5 to read Bucks, Bulls & OIAL 2014 Season Dates and Application Timeline and Amendments to Rule R657-5.

**Second:** Paul Cowley

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

### **Item 2. Sept 18, 2013 Minutes**

Robert Byrnes, RAC Chair

**Motion:** John Blazzard- Move to approve the amended minutes of Sept 18, 2013.

**Second:** Jim Gaskill

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

### **Item 3. Old RAC Business**

Robert Byrnes, RAC Chair

### **Item 4. Regional Update**

Justin Dolling, Regional Supervisor

DWR ramped up the pheasant releases. Will be releasing 11,000 pheasants statewide.

Wildlife Biologists will be starting post season deer classifications.

Swans are starting to come in on GSL, mainly on the north part. 22,000 swans on last count.

New Wildlife Technician- Thayne Aubrey.

Looking for help on repairing elk pens at Hardware Ranch.

Big Game Transplants coming up. Big Horn sheep off of Antelope Island and the New Foundland's.

Transplanting doe deer off of Antelope Island.

Law Enforcement- Have been pretty busy with 10 illegal moose taken. Report the deer hunt was pretty quiet.

Deer that came through check station were in good condition. Winter range patrols this fall.

Outreach Section- Hardware Ranch is getting ready to open for the season on Dec 14.

Habitat- Has been busy implementing projects that have been approved.

Aquatics- Finished up their surveys at Bear Lake and Willard Bay.

Bryce Thurgood- Is there a habitat project coming up on the Brigham face?

Justin Dolling- There is and I failed to mention that one. It is this Saturday.

Bryce Thurgood- Where are they meeting at and what time?

Jim Christensen- We will be meeting up at the I, right below the mountain here on the Brigham face WMA at 10:00. We will hopefully go until we are done.

Bryce Thurgood- You are going to meet on the upper road?

Jim Christensen- Yes.

### **Item 5. Bucks, Bulls & OIAL 2014 Season Dates and Application Timeline and Amendments to Rule R657-5**

Justin Shannon, Wildlife Program Coordinator

See Handout

## Public Questions

David Hougaard- You talked about the elk on Monroe Mountain, any status on the predator control that has been going on as well as the elk and deer domestic animal predator control interface regarding your specific recommendation on Monroe Mountain.

Justin Shannon- The recommendation on Monroe is not directly tied to predation one way or the other. We do have callers on cougars down there. We are doing some stuff with the coyote project down there. The results of that really don't influence this recommendation. What this recommendation is based on is if you look at the Monroe and just focus on that, we are taking a disproportionate amount of spikes. If you look at the complex as a whole, we probably are not, we are in better shape. This is just a way to address this issue on the Monroe.

David Hougaard- On transplanting deer, there were 102 doe from Parowan to the Phavant this year. There were two different transplants. I understand 44 of those 102 are no longer on the mountain. First of all, are my numbers correct? Second of all, is that kind of movement mortality to be expected and is that applied to any other types of big game when we transplant them?

Justin Shannon- I think your numbers are correct. I have been hesitant to speak of the success or failure of that transplant because we are not even a year into it yet. So, to say it was an overwhelming success or failure is too premature. You are right, I think we have lost just under half of the transplanted deer already. There are different ways to look at that data. What was your second question?

David Hougaard- How does that apply to other transplants?

Justin Shannon- It is horrible compared to other big game transplants. With big horn sheep and bison in particular and pronghorn. We have much higher success rates and much better survival rates after that first year. Was there more?

## RAC Questions

Jim Gaskill- For a long time we have considered transplanting of deer to be a bad idea. The question is, what has changed? Is there some new study or data that we are not aware of in the last meeting? In essence, we were told that transplanting deer is not a good solution.

Justin Shannon- Nothing has changed from last meeting to this meeting as far as new science or anything along those lines. What we don't have in Utah is a good data set to say we tried this and this was the success or failure rates. I think in the wildlife management community, it is not a practice that is exercised often. It is not a management tool that is used a lot. However, with that said, some of the dynamics have changed. If you look at an area like Antelope Island for instance and we are suppose to be at 300-400 deer and we are double that, these deer to not have a place to migrate to. There is not really the social tolerance for doe hunts. In cases like that, transplants can be a necessary management tool to help alleviate a problem in that case. There is really two ways to look at it. You have deer that may be in an area that are causing problems and translocation can help solve that problem. The second part of that would be potentially bolster a population elsewhere. If we can do both of those, it would be a good thing. We are really trying to solve the first problem in the areas that we have too many deer.

John Cavitt- On the box Elder unit, that unit was suggested as a potential site for translocation. It looks like that is at objective for the last three years or so. I am wondering if there is any other information that is available to suggest that is a good place for them?

Justin Shannon- Jim can speak about the objective part of it.

Jim Christensen- As far as the objectives go, the buck to doe ratio we are at that but the population objective we are below by about 4,000-5,000. We have an overall objective of 20,000 and lately have been just over 16,000.

Justin Shannon- Some of the areas we are thinking about putting deer like the Newfoundland Mountains have very low densities of deer there and historically they held more.

John Cavitt- What is the estimate on the cost for the translocations per deer?

Justin Shannon- That is a good question. I do not have it off the top of my head but I imagine \$500-\$700 and that is really guess work. For most of the big game species, that is about where we fall. It might even be lower than that. I am speculating but I don't know.

Bryce Thurgood- Would it be more beneficial to have some sort of idea how they survive if you are to put them one place vs. the other? Lions have killed probably a good chunk of those deer that have died. It seems the survival rate would be night and day difference.

Justin Shannon- Potentially, yes. With transplanting deer, I don't want to pretend our agency has all of the answers especially in regards to survival rates. It is important as we move these deer to several different locales and especially taking them on a winter range like the Phavant and contrasting that to an area like the west desert. I think it is responsible that we learn from that. I think as we begin this practice and go down the road, we will have more complete data sense. It is a fair question.

Kristin Purdy- Do you have transplant goals for bucks and doe or is it you get what you get?

Justin Shannon- On an area like Antelope Island, it will be heavy towards doe just because they are the reproductive portion of that population.

Kristin Purdy- Because you wish to remove the does from Antelope Island, this is why you are targeting and protecting them.

Justin Shannon- The goal is to reduce that population. If we were to move deer from urban settings and things like that down the road, if we do that, then I think it would be everything. I think the source herd is going to dictate the demographics of the herd we want to take.

Paul Cowley- My question deals with the big horn sheep hunt in the central region. In Utah the population trends for that population and why we are looking at a hunt at this point?

Justin Shannon- In areas like Rock Canyon and Mt. Nebo in 2007 and 2008, they kind of stumbled a little bit and were not doing as well. Mt. Timpanogos has been fairly constant. It has not taken off like we would have like. There is a healthy population with rams there. We have a lot of anecdotal reports seeing good rams. throughout that complex, our last estimates were 80-100 sheep and we have populations well below that in other parts of the state. If we have opportunities to expand big horn sheep hunting for the public, we are going to take advantage of that. This Friday, the central region is going to survey all three of those areas so we will have a more complete picture of that. We are comfortable holding a hunt there.

John Blazzard- You spark a question when you were talking about coyote depredation. I have not heard anything about our bounty program. Is that still flying or died off?

Justin Shannon- We are still in full swing with that. I am not prepared with numbers tonight but that is certainly something we can email through Justin if you are interested in that data.

Robert Byrnes- Jon Shivik has given the Wildlife Board an update on that.

Justin Shannon- Do you remember what that was?

Robert Byrnes- I can probably pull it out of the drop box and forward it to you. I can look for that and forward it to you.

John Blazzard- All I have heard lately is that Nevada thanks us.

Jon Leonard- I received an email that would ask you to discuss the possibility of a youth hunter who possesses a general season any weapon bull spike elk permit being allowed to hunt the archery muzzleloader and general season including extended archery areas as it is currently permitted for youth possessing general season any weapon buck deer permit.

Justin Shannon- So is it just solely an archery permit?

Jon Leonard- Archery, muzzleloader or general season.

Justin Shannon- It would be applicable to all three.

Jon Leonard- Similar to what you are apparently doing for deer.

Justin Shannon- I don't think internally we have explored that but that is what the public process is for. I would be hesitant because we have not thought through it. I am not prepared to speak about it tonight.

Jon Leonard- I think the purpose was to introduce that.

Justin Shannon- Sure. It is definitely something that we can explore.

Joel Ferry- On the southern region, we are modifying the pronghorn on the John's valley herd?

Justin Shannon- Yes.

Joel Ferry- So you are going to be pulling that herd into a unit that has less tags?

Justin Shannon- Correct.

Joel Ferry- Are you going to modify the tags allocation between the two units or are you just going to assume a lower harvest. On the side that has the higher numbers, are you going to assume a lower harvest ratio?

Justin Shannon- With Parker Mountain, they have a thriving pronghorn population. We throw a lot of permits at that. John's Valley is within that boundary but a distinct population. We would cut that out of the Parker because it has a lot of tags. We merge that with the Dutton that has fewer tags. We are comfortable getting some harvest there. If hunters wanted to, they could focus on that area and have a lot of harvest there. We are not sure that is something we want to see?

Joel Ferry- Is that going to drastically reduce the harvest percentages? What do you anticipate?

Justin Shannon- The permit numbers are pretty drastic. I do not have them off the top of my head but there are significantly less permits on the Dutton than the Parker. It just alleviates that concern that the region has down there. I can get you specific numbers.

Joel Ferry- I am just curious if you have a harvest objective and if they are over harvesting because that isolated population of pronghorn is in there and getting hammered.

Justin Shannon- I think it has the potential to. They probably see more harvest there than they would like to and feel like if they go this route, it will alleviate the pressure on the specific herd.

Bruce Sillitoe- Question regarding reporting harvest success. Is there certain hunts that DWR requires hunters to report?

Justin Shannon- Yes. Things like some of our OIAL and then we do have mandatory harvest reporting on some of that stuff. It is more survey work and things like that.

Bruce Sillitoe- The reason I ask is because I got a phone call and answered the questions and it was fine. I am use to other states that I hunt, it is mandatory.

Justin Shannon- We have not gone that route for all our hunts but some of the OIAL and more prominent hunts we have.

Robert Byrnes- You wouldn't expect the tags on the Parker Mountains to go down because you are cutting the smaller area out would you?

Justin Shannon- If they did, it would be minor.

Robert Byrnes- Some tags would be added to Dutton because you are adding that population into it.

Justin Shannon- That would be the concept behind it. How many, I don't know but that is the idea.

Robert Byrnes- It probably would not be a real net change between the two?

Justin Shannon- No, not between the two.

Kristin Purdy- The standardizing age for the youth hunts at 17, it makes sense to me to standardize the age of the youth hunts but why at 17? In the United States, if you are younger than 18, you are classified as a youth. So why are we choosing the age of 17? I understand the particular date, that makes sense but why aren't we calling youths people who are younger than their 18th birthday.

Justin Shannon- I think we are saying the same thing. On August 1st in this scenario, you would be 18. So, it is 17 or younger. The age class from 17 to 18 is still considered a youth. The day you turn 18, you no longer would be.

Kristin Purdy- Okay.

Jim Gaskill- This does not have an effect on how old they need to be to buy a license, just to participate in the youth hunts correct?

Justin Shannon- Correct.

## **Public Comment**

Kelly Warr- Comments regarding CWMU program.

David Hougaard- Have been to the RAC many times since the muzzleloader deer hunt change to September. That hunt always opens in the middle of the week. We are encouraging youth to skip school to participate. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and possibly Tuesday. It seems to me that is poor season choice for the muzzleloader deer hunt. I recommend to weekends, a Saturday opener and cut the bow hunt one weekend.

Floyd Hatch- Waiting for Scott McFarlane's presentation.

Ken Teis- Backcountry Hunters & Anglers- Our organization is primarily interested in protecting the more pristine backcountry areas of the state and always looking for opportunities to enjoy those areas. My comments are related to the season dates, particularly for the archery hunt and also one concern over the rifle hunt. It seems like the timing of the archery hunt starting the middle of August through September is pretty hot. The concern is recovering game and the potential for spoilage, especially for the members who make the effort to get deep into

the backcountry. Our concern is that the hunt starts too early and, based on experiences with surrounding states, it is also a shorter season. Encouraging the Division, RAC and Wildlife Board to reexamine those dates, especially in light of potential increases in summer temperatures during that time of the year. Another concern is questioning the wisdom of having a rifle bull elk hunt during the time when the breeding bulls are most susceptible to harvest during the rut. Other weapon choices don't have that opportunity to harvest bulls during that period of time. We may be overharvesting our prime breeding bulls at the time they are most susceptible.

### **RAC Comment**

Jim Gaskill- I think it is a pretty tall order to include in one motion, everything he brought up. I would suggest we chunk this out a little bit and deal with pieces of it at a time.

John Cavitt- Confused about the inclusion of the transplant plan or addendum into the mule deer management plan. It seems to me that it is not anywhere mentioned, at least within the most current mule deer management plan that I could find. A lot of other strategies are suggested and I am a little concerned this has not had an opportunity to go through the management plan process.

Robert Byrnes- I did neglect to read the mule deer foundations letter that was handed to me at the start of the meeting. I will read the letter for further comment: The Mule Deer Foundation supports the DWR proposed amendment to the mule deer management plan. We suggest amending the DWR statewide management plan for mule deer. Trapping and translocation of big game has been used by wildlife managers to achieve many objectives including restoring wildlife populations to historical ranges. Augmenting populations of low densities and reducing over population. Examples of successful trap and translocation programs include the restoration of elk, pronghorn, big horn sheep and wild turkeys across North America during the 20th century. Restoration of mule deer through translocation has been used to bring populations back to historical ranges in Texas and Mexico. MDF believes that one of the keys to reversing the decline of mule deer in Utah and throughout their historic range is for state agencies to find the missing component which will result in the ability to successfully transplant mule deer. MDF applauds the current trap and transplant study currently underway in Southern Utah. MDF believes the study has answered several important questions that will aide in insuring that future transplants will be more successful. MDF has contributed several million dollars to the conservation tag program improving mule deer habitats statewide. Believe these habitat projects have had an impact on one of the factors involved in declining mule deer populations. Ask that the RAC recommends that the DWR adds the amendment that predator control occur prior to any transplant operation, primarily on coyote and cougar. If this is not the appropriate place, we recommend it be added to each individual transplant proposal. Managers should have a monitoring component should to be put into be in place to determine the effectiveness of the program. MDF supports the amendment and stands ready to help DWR.

Jim Gaskill- I am concerned because this seems to be a rather sudden reversal of long term information that we have received regarding transplants. When asked the question, he said there is nothing new or any new science. We just want to try this and it seems like if you want to try it, maybe try it in a little one shot highly controlled scientific experiment type rather than saying we are going to open a third of the state to transplants. Most of those areas where they use to be, we haven't killed them. Nature has killed them. If we put more deer in there, unless we change something, nature will kill them too. I am just not happy with that approach at all.

John Cavitt- I think the other thing to consider is the plan is subject to be revised or reexamined here in the next year, I believe. Is that the case?

Justin Shannon- It is going to be revised. It is a good question, why are we bringing it up now. The reason is the plan does not address transplants at all. If we are going to do something like this, we are trying to be transparent about it. The other part is we are trying to follow code. Code says if you are going to do transplants then release sites that need to be selected and it has to go through the public process. That is what we are doing now. If we want to move deer, these sites are just laying that foundation to do that. Not all of these 8 or 9 locations are going to receive deer. I don't think that is the goal. They have the potential if we caught deer, we could take them to that. This is something that will receive a lot of attention and it will be better discussed now. This is just to get a start.

John Cavitt- The other concern regarding this is chronic wasting disease. I know you have indicated these deer will be tested but aren't we concerned about the reliability of the tests and whether or not we can get good data from those tests. Some I have heard about are 25% false negatives.

Justin Shannon- The one thing we do have on our side is time. A lot of these areas have been sampled for CWD since the early 2000's. We have not detected it. It is certainly always a risk but we have not detected it so that is why we feel comfortable forward. We are going to test these things before transplant as well.

Robert Byrnes- It sounds like the areas where deer will potentially be taken from, we do have problems with those deer. Overpopulation on Antelope Island and urban deer issues especially in some of the cities. I know the division is looking for ways to try and solve some of those problems or at least make a small dent in possibly urban deer issues. We are going to have to get some deer off of Antelope Island one way or the other. If we have a fire out there, we are definitely going to be short on habitat. I don't think we are going to have a lot of open hunting on Antelope Island to solve the deer issue. Possibly taking them out if we can move those deer. It will work in the experiment to determine if it works and getting some data but I think they have looked and there is habitat available on the transplant sites. It is not going to be a lack of habitat that the animals potentially die from. It could be predation or just that they don't know how to live in a place other than the city where everybody's bushes and stuff are available for them to eat.

Jim Gaskill- I think that is part of my point that we have suitable habitat with no deer or very few deer. There use-to be deer there in large numbers and so some mysterious thing is responsible for why we don't have them. We are going to put deer out there that probably are not very well adapted to that kind of habitat already into an area that is decimated. The habitat or the predation or the phases of the moon or who knows what has reduced that population. It does not seem like a good idea to waste precious resources. We are talking \$500 dollars per deer to move. We might be better served to find the answer to why the deer are not there now. Certainly, we all learned about the potential for increase in population in our first classes in biology. I just don't like this idea. I think it kind of shakes my faith in what these guys have been telling me for 30 years. That transplanting deer is a stupid thing to do and they are going to do it anyway.

Robert Byrnes- I think Antelope Island would be fairly comparable to the Pilot range and the Newfoundland's. That would be a fair match, taking urban deer potentially would be harder for the animals.

Jim Gaskill- It must not be a good match or there would be lots of deer on the Pilot's and Newfoundland's.

John Wall- I am involved with those six or seven different organizations, mostly conservation type groups. Everyone I talk or deal with are all for this change because of states around us have been doing transplants for years. I have lived in the northern part my whole life. The Pilot mountains and Newfoundland's, I don't think it was mother nature it was over harvest.

Bruce Thurgood- I think when they went out and put the sheep on the Newfoundland's, they probably went in and hit the predators pretty hard because they obviously wanted the sheep to prosper. I would love to see them pull deer off Antelope Island and take them. I have not seen deer but have heard there are a few out there on the Newfoundland's. I would love to give them a chance to see if they can make that transition. I would love to see every effort to try and get a couple different samplings to see if it works. It is better than the alternative to shooting them.

John Blazzard- It seems like if we have a deer problem on Antelope Island it would be a good place to put two or three lions or a pack of wolves. It would not cost hardly anything.

Paul Cowley- I need to be sure I understand a couple of things. On that presentation, as we talked about Monroe Mountain going to the board tomorrow?

Justin Shannon- Yes.

Paul Cowley- Why are you bringing it to use if it is not going to the rest of the RAC's before it even hits the board. It seems inconsistent on timing when that topic is not the topic we are discussing tonight does not hit the board until December.

Justin Shannon- The timing is not ideal. Normally, we like to take a report on these action items prior to the RAC's. The board is not going to say yea or nay tomorrow. That is what this process is. I was kind of setting the table as to why this is a statewide issue. Our recommendation to the board tomorrow is just to report back on the action item. Let them know we spoke with concerned citizens which is what we are going to take to the RAC's.

Paul Cowley- It is more of a discussion point than an decision?

Justin Shannon- Yes, well said. It will be a decision point in December.

Paul Cowley- Ok. that helps.

Justin Shannon-I apologize because it is not an easy process to set that table and explain it. I could have done a better job.

Paul Cowley- The Uintah Wasatch Cache covers the area where we are opening up the bighorn sheep hunt in the central region. We are concerned about the population there and the crash that did take five years ago. I am concerned about the hunt at this point. I think the numbers will be really valuable as we look at that in preparation. It would have been nice to have that tonight before we talk about opening a hunt.

Justin Shannon- I would have been nice to come and say we surveyed and saw 82 sheep and this many rams. The nice thing is we will have the data before the wildlife board votes on it moving forward. When those die offs occur, they were occurring on Rock Canyon, Mt. Nebo and not on Mt. Timpanogos. Mt. Timpanogos always kept their lamb ratios high. I went up to Rock Canyon about a month ago and saw a 4 1/2 year ram, a 3 1/2 year old ram and a yearling. So something is still giving birth on these units and we are optimistic about it. We did see some declines but all of the indications so far that we are getting back are that these things are trying to turn a corner. We feel like there is at least a huntable population there.

Paul Cowley- We are just concerned about that, the numbers.

Robert Byrnes- The wildlife board has 22 action log items right now. They come due quite often. We are a little strange this meeting because we are the first RAC meeting in this cycle. The wildlife board is meeting tomorrow for our September 18th meeting. Typically, they would have gone through some of those action log items and they would have matured and been incorporated in the presentations for this cycle. The dates are just different this time.

Paul Cowley- I think the explanation was correct. That really helped clarify whether that was a decision point or just information.

Robert Byrnes- The wildlife board will give some input to the division but a lot of times they get incorporated into the presentation.

Jim Gaskill- Commend you for the new bison hunt. I think we have watched that develop and that was a result of transplants which we were in favor of because we knew buffalo would survive better than deer. I am really pleased about that.

Kristin Purdy- I would like to go back to the mule deer transplant issue. Want to make sure that I understand the issue. When you identified the places where deer could be transplanted to, there is not a large herd there. You are also identifying locations where transplant stock could come from. If we just talk about Antelope Island, we know that mule deer don't transplant as successfully as other species. You mentioned the statistic of 44% which was Monroe Mountain. We thought 44% of the transplant died or did not survive the transplant. Is that right?

Justin Shannon- 44 of the 102 deer have already died.

Kristin Purdy- Okay.

Justin Shannon- Just to clarify, we did not specify the source populations, just the release population.

Kristin Purdy- This is a possibility because we know Antelope Island has double the deer that we think is our targeted objective right?

Justin Shannon- Yes, there are other reasons too. I think we are to a point where lethal removal is not always socially acceptable for a variety of reasons.

Kristin Purdy- Right.

Justin Shannon- It is a shift in culture we are seeing. That is why I really wanted to emphasize the two fold portion of this problem. One is to remove deer where they could potentially be causing damage. Jim brings up some really good points. Whether they take off and flourish and succeed, I don't think we have the data to know that.

Kristin Purdy- If we transplant deer and know that this is often not a successful means of helping bolster or reestablish a new population, it still may be relieving an overpopulation problem in a place like Antelope Island or the city of Bountiful?

Justin Shannon- Sure.

Kristin Purdy- I'm wondering what options a wildlife manager has at his disposal when transplant is not successful and therefore it is not the most attractive option. There is not the social tolerance for a doe hunt on Antelope Island. Lethal removal in the city of Bountiful is also not tolerated well. What are your other options to reduce nuisance or overpopulation of deer in certain places.

Justin Shannon- They are pretty limited and probably less successful than what we are proposing. One would be the division trap and euthanize them. That is far from what we would like to do. I do not even want to entertain that I guess.

Kristin Purdy- So what we are saying when we transplant them is that we are hopefully removing them in a non-lethal means even though we know transplanting of mule deer does not have necessarily a historic success rate that we want. We want a much higher success rate than what we got.

Justin Shannon- With bighorn sheep, we did not get really good at transplanting them overnight either. When we first started transplanting sheep in Southeast Utah, we were killing half of them during the handling portion of it. The one thing our agency really wants to do is move these deer and learn from it. We want to get better and the way to do that is try it. I know it is a cultural shift both for our agency and the public. It is something we want to try. We don't have good data in Utah. We have done some of this in the past 20 years ago on the Henry Mountains but we didn't radio collar or follow them. We are attempting to solve one problem if we can do a good thing for deer on the release sites, that is the other option. It is a good thing.

Kristin Purdy- Thank you.

Jon Leonard- I would like to have more confidence in the division and their biologists that they know what they are doing. I will accept their expertise. We have serious problems with Antelope Island and urban deer that we need to address. They have done a good job in identifying sites that could benefit from that. Mortality rates in all species is quite high. I know wild turkey, the natural mortality rate is somewhere around 60% but also they have high reproductive rates to offset that. If you get more experience in handling and moving deer, we have never had to do that before because they have been fairly well populated until recently. I think it is time to try.

### **Motion**

**Motion:** Jon Leonard- Recommend the Wildlife Board approve Bucks, Bulls & OIAL 2014 Season Dates and Application Timeline and Rule R657-5 Amendments as presented.

**Second:** Craig Van Tassell

Jim Gaskill- The whole proposal?

Jon Leonard- Yes.

### **Discussion on the motion**

Gaskill- I may vote against this motion but I like 90% of the proposal. I would hate to vote no to the whole thing when it is just one part that concerns me. I would like to see it amended so that I can vote no on what I don't like and yes on what I do like which is that I don't like the deer transplant proposal.

### **Motion To Amend**

**Motion:** Jim Gaskill- Amend the original motion by removing the addendum to the Mule Deer Management Plan allowing the transplant of deer.

**Second:** John Cavitt

### **Discussion on the motion**

John Cavitt- I agree with Jim in that this may be something that has not been done in Utah but transplanting deer is something that has been done going well back into the 1930's. There is a good data base of literature on that. There is a reason why it is not a typical practice. That is my reason.

**Motion to Amend Fails:** For: 5 Against: 8

### **Discussion on the original Motion**

John Blazzard- I think there is some viability in the idea that was presented to us about adjusting the dates a day or two so the muzzleloader hunt could start on a weekend rather than mid week.

Robert Byrnes- Would you want to shorten the archery season?

John Blazzard- By what, two days. I think it is something that needs to be looked into.

Robert Byrnes-We have recommendations from the public that the season starts too early and it is too short. You have to balance out how you want it. If you want to make a motion to amend. Another motion to amend.

John Blazzard- I don't want to make a motion to amend right now but I think it needs to be discussed when the plan comes forward next year.

Robert Byrnes- We have had this discussion for years and years. Everybody wants their piece of pie. It has developed into this system that it is now.

John Blazzard- I understand, I think it needs to be looked at.

Jim Gaskill- We really need to do more to make this what it used to be and that is a family activity. Things that take away from families and cater to the guy that wants to put on a backpack and get away from his family for a week, I am not for that. I am for families so I am not going to make a motion either but I think whenever we make a hunting plan, that ought to be way up there on the list of what it is going to do to the average guy once he takes his kids and grandkids and teach them about the outdoors and how to hunt.

**Original Motion Passes:** For: 8 Against: 5

### **Information on a previously asked question**

Randy Wood- I have an update on the coyote harvest. The first year would be July 1st of 2012 through June 30th of 2013. We did it on a fiscal year. There were 7,160 coyotes that were removed by the bounty program and turned in for a bounty. In addition to that, Wildlife Service's removed 3,349 coyotes. Trappers reported removing an additional 5,557 but about half of those were actually turned in the bounty. For the first year estimate there would be 13,290 coyotes removed.

### **Item 6. CWMU Management Plans and Permit Numbers for 2014**

Scott McFarlane, Wildlife Program Coordinator

See Handout

### **Public Questions**

David Hougaard- On the recommended numbers vs. what they get. What does the division use for those numbers? I am curious of moose on Hardscrabble vs. Deseret specifically. What is the biology on those numbers?

Scott McFarlane- They are approved through the regional biologist. They have gone through the regional wildlife manager and supervisor for the approval process. On deer and elk, the CWMU's are allowed to opt for different splits. They can have a 90/10 split which is the best. It gives the public the antlerless permits for the CWMU. If they go to an 85/15 split, 20% antlerless go to private and 75% to the private and so on down. For bull moose and pronghorn it is a 60/40 split. If the antlerless permits are offered it is just the opposite, it is 40% antlerless go to the private and 60% go to the public. That is basically how that it split out. Does that answer your question?

David Hougaard- Yes, it answers most of my question. So that has not changed since the beginning of the program?

Scott McFarlane- No, it has not.

David Hougaard- Hardscrabble with 16,000 acres and Deseret with 211,000 and 16,000 public land, two moose and one moose with 24,000 acres. two moose and two moose with 1+6,000 acres, the biology on that seems funny. Does the landowner ask to take two moose which would mean two for the public and the biologist says yes. That is really the specifics of my question.

Scott McFarlane- That does happen but on moose where moose are all limited entry, there is a formula we use also. This might be the biology you are looking for. You look at the percentage of private land or CWMU land in the unit and how many moose permits are offered. the biologist will say how many can be harvested. You look at the percentage of the private land or CWMU's in the unit and they get that corresponding percentage of the moose permits. The other lands get whatever the other percentage is. All properties are not created equal so the biologist will sit down with the operators of the CWMU to determine an appropriate number to harvest for what is on that property for hunting seasons.

## RAC Questions

Kristin Purdy- The science behind the numbers that are offered on CWMU's, where does the data come from behind those numbers?

Scott McFarlane- There is two different scenarios. There would be open bull or on deer it would be anything that is not limited entry. Those numbers are determined by the biologist what the harvest could stand. Anything limited entry, the number for the unit is already set it is just the corresponding percentage that they get allocated to the CWMU.

Kristin Purdy- How is the size of the population determined on the private lands.

Scott McFarlane- It is managed as a unit but everything is managed as a wildlife management unit. The corresponding harvest, the way we managed the deer is usually by buck doe ratios. Most of the places it is not a limited entry unit and has majority of private lands or CWMU's have fairly high buck doe ratios. There is really not a limit unless the biologist determines it is an overharvest on the population.

Kristin Purdy- Are biologists out there surveying private lands to determine the size of the population?

Scott McFarlane- Yes, it is.

Craig VanTassell- Do you have any numbers on resident vs. non-resident on these tags?

Scott McFarlane- No because these come in the form of vouchers. Public permits are mailed but everything that comes to the private landowners comes as a voucher and that is something I have not looked at. The percentage of non-residents that redeem those vouchers is not something I have looked at.

Craig VanTassell- I know we have discussed this before and I know on moose there was some concern that there was higher than 10% going to non-residents. I would be interested where the resident and non-residents breaks down.

Scott McFarlane- I can't do that tonight but I would be happy to break that out for another meeting. We could definitely find that out.

Jim Gaskill- There is not a 10% restriction on CWMU vouchers like there is on general permits correct?

Scott McFarlane- No, there isn't.

Jim Gaskill- They sell them wherever they want.

Scott McFarlane-Correct.

Jim Gaskill- I was always told the buck/doe ratio counts were done after the hunt on public lands. Is there a separate one for private land.

Scott McFarlane- When the biologists do their buck/doe counts, it is after the seasons and what they do is go out and take a representative count. If there is private lands, you don't do all your counts on the private lands or on the public lands. What they are looking at is a representative count on both so it is not a biased count.

Jim Gaskill- Do they keep track of them separately so we have a number?

Scott McFarlane- I am not sure if they keep track of them separately but when they survey they make sure they have an equal sample on both.

Jim Gaskill- I think I was told a couple of times that buck/doe ratios were for the general deer numbers and based on public not private lands.

Scott McFarlane- Not entirely, it should be a representative sample because you are managing it as a unit, not just private or public lands. I don't think our biologists do that.

Russ Lawrence- You mentioned that the additional acreage added by Deseret was primarily winter range. Do you know where that was located?

Scott McFarlane- It was all added in the Northwest corner of the ranch.

Russ Lawrence- Why did they want to change from 85 to 90?

Scott McFarlane- Probably because they were getting 25% of the antlerless permits and it probably was not working for them so they went back to a 90/10 split so the public gets all the antlerless permits.

Robert Byrnes- Where you are recommending not to include acreage, that is not required for a definable and enforceable boundary.

Scott McFarlane- No but it does have some public access so it really does not fit the rule. I think that was the original reason it was taken out. There was some complaints by the public who had been accessing that. It is not that we are recommending denial of the CWMU, we just recommend that not be included because of what the board asked them to do in the past.

Robert Byrnes-If the council is willing to go with the divisions recommendation, the motion should specifically say the divisions recommendation not just as presented. Would that meet your requirements.

Scott McFarlane- I guess I would recommend you say that we recommend the approval of it. the divisions recommendation with excluding the state section.

Robert Byrnes- I mean on the entire presentation. That would cover any differences between the operators request vs. your recommendation.

Scott McFarlane- That is correct. The divisions recommendation is to exclude that with the corresponding numbers.

Bryce Thurgood- Do you have any public feedback or how often do you get public feedback on these public participating on the CWMU? Positive or negative? Harvest success or season dates?

Scott McFarlane- What we do is survey the CWMU both public and private. I believe that one is required to be able to put in for the hunt again. They look at harvest and also have a customer satisfaction index. They are rated from 1-5, 3 being neutral. All of that information is available through our harvest reports through the satisfaction index.

Bryce Thurgood- Do any of them every get penalized or looked into or are they all pretty high?

Scott McFarlane- Most are pretty good. There is still some work to be done on some CWMU's. We have a CWMU advisory committee to hear complaints from the public.

## **Public Comment**

Kelly Warr- I have a CWMU and I am here to represent the other ranchers in the valley there. We are getting an increased number of elk in the Grouse Creek Valley. Cow hunt season date on the CWMU's. Elk are typically in there the first part of August and are gone by first of November. We are talking about a lot of elk. Want to move the cow date up so we can use the whole month of August to harvest cows. As it stands now, it is August 15th. We would like to move it to the 1st of August. Also, the cow permit ratio is different for every CWMU, ours in particular. Our private public is pretty much 50/50 split. On the cow permit ratio, right now it is closer to an 80/20 or 90/10 and I would like to see that, on the private end, to a 60/40 at least. Also, regarding the Grouse Creek area we are having problems with farms to the south end of the valley that have problems with all bull population that is moving in on hay fields. They cannot control it with cow tags because they are bulls. I have heard as many as 30-40 bulls and the landowners are getting frustrated. Jim suggested they are going to bump up permits there. I think we were talking up to 20. I would like to encourage the board to try and follow through with that and try to compensate and help out with the problems we are having with elk out there.

Robert Byrnes- are you the operator?

Kelly Warr- Yes, for my CWMU.

Robert Byrnes- You didn't actually request a change in your operating. We don't see any changes for your CWMU.

Kelly Warr- I talked to Jim in the past concerning the cow permit ratio and so I am kind of addressing the board now.

Robert Byrnes- The ones that you have seen we are talking about tonight, there are some change or doing a renewal. You probably need to request a change earlier in the year, is that how it works Scott?

Scott McFarlane- It depends on whether we are talking bucks and bulls or antlerless. Bucks and bulls are done right now. Antlerless is done in the spring. This coming May, if you want to request more antlerless permits, that is the time to do that. The permit split we cannot change. We would have to change the rule on that.

Kelly Warr-I am trying to plant seed now for down the road to take into consideration.

Robert Byrnes- Do you have certain amount of public land in your CWMU?

Scott McFarlane- It is pretty close to 50/50.

Robert Byrnes- So that does affect the split between the public, it would not be a straight 90/10 because you have public land included in your CWMU. The public gets additional permits to equal that out. I guess that is worked out with the biologist?

Scott McFarlane- We have a formula we have to follow the rule and it depends. Even with public land included, we can look at the splits and see if they take a corresponding lower split we can offer more antlerless tags to them. It goes from 85/15 split goes to 25% to the private landowner. If they want to do a 80/20 split, I believe

that is where it goes to a 60/40. You have to give up some bull tags to get correspondingly more antlerless tags. Is that what you are asking to have changed in the future?

Kelly Warr- Yes, we are happy with the split on the bulls. We were hoping to do something with the cow permits. We have probably twice the success rate with the permits that we actually hand out to people that are going to go out and hunt elk. We take all the public cow hunters out and show them where to hunt for elk. We are probably only half on the public hunters as far as success. Where we get depredation tags to control elk that get off CWMU's, we are closer to 80% on them. I would like to see the private tags go up because we have had a better success rate with those tags.

Robert Byrnes- In the future, you are going to do a change application or when you do a renewal, are you going to try and change permit numbers? I don't know if we can actually change your numbers because you have not submitted a change application.

Kelly Warr- Right.

Robert Byrnes- Make sure you understand the timelines to get that worked through. It will then come through us.

Kelly Warr- I will get with Jim on that.

Robert Byrnes- We definitely are compassionate for people that have elk that are impacting them.

Kelly Warr- Consider maybe working with border states and create some kind of buffer where most of the problem is right there on the Nevada border. On the Pilot range they have kind of done some swapping back and forth. We are hoping to see the states come together and make a buffer to get better control on the elk population.

Justin Dolling- We heard that loud and clear in the meeting. Jim has been working with biologists and we are working on that.

Kelly Warr- Commend Jim. Has been wonderful to work with. He is doing a fabulous job.

Jon Leonard- What about his request for moving the opener of the cow hunt. Is that an application process too?

Scott McFarlane- As far as moving the antlerless harvest date up to August 1st, and right now it is set in rule. They can begin on the 15th. This is one of the recommendations coming from biologists and landowners. When we did do the rule change, that is going to be a recommendation which is more consistent with how we harvest other things also. It will be recommended that we move it to August 1st but have to wait until we visit the rule?

Robert Byrnes- When will the rule be around?

Scott McFarlane- I anticipate it will be this next year.

Paul Cowley- For Grouse Creek we have a start date of the 1st of September.

Scott McFarlane- That is for Bucks and Bulls.

Paul Cowley- You are talking cows.

Scott McFarlane- As antlerless.

Paul Cowley- And antlerless in the spring?

Robert Byrnes- Season dates can be different on CWMU's.

Scott McFarlane- All the season dates for CWMU's, the parameters are set in the rule.

Floyd Hatch- There are four CWMU applications that came in this year. I represent one of the two that the region recommends a denial. I don't think it was intended to be a typo but on the Spring Canyon entry it shows that it has less than 5,000 acres. I am in real estate so I am doing this for a client. The region has made it clear that public lands are difficult to work with. The reason we see 5,000 plus and the division does not of that section. We would not be here without the biologists and Scott's help. I own and operate a CWMU in Morgan County. I think we understand the multiple ways we can get to 5,000 acres and hopefully in a short amount of time, we will be back.

Robert Byrnes- Recommend that you keep working with them and hopefully you can get to the number you need.

Floyd Hatch- How can one get into section 2? Even if you could, it would be hard packing out a buck? Maybe that could take a little more work.

Robert Byrnes- The difficulty in reaching some place makes it more attractive to some people that we deal with, hunters especially.

Floyd Hatch- As a much younger hunter, I understand that.

Scott McFarlane- We have been working pretty hard on this with Floyd. The rule says that in order to make up your minimum acreage for a deer CWMU is 5,000 acres. The acreage has to be contiguous. By definition it does

not mean touching corner to corner. The problem is that in order to include public lands in that three criteria have to be met. First of all, it has to be completely surrounded by private land or otherwise inaccessible by public. It does have public access and is bordered by BLM lands. That is a problem in not including that section. There are sections completely surrounded by private lands and do not have public access. That is the problem with approving this as a CWMU.

### **RAC Comment**

Kristin Purdy- Why are the CWMU's numbers so skewed to the north? It seems like that really limits opportunity for the central and southern units.

Scott McFarlane- I believe that is because we have more private property in the northern part of the state. So, there is more opportunity to establish a CWMU in the north.

### **Motion**

**Motion:** Jim Gaskill- Recommend the Wildlife Board approve CWMU Management Plans and Permit Numbers for 2014 with the Division's recommendations.

**Second:** G. Lynn Nelson

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

### **Item 7. Landowner Permit Numbers for 2014**

Scott McFarlane, Wildlife Program Coordinator

Robert Byrnes- Will you explain the presentation difference between our packet and what is going to happen tonight?

Scott McFarlane- There are two changes since being submitted to the RAC. A landowner association is an opportunity for private landowners to form an association within the limited entry units for buck, deer, bull elk or pronghorn. They have to sign up for 51% of the private lands that lie within these limited entry units. If the landowner association would qualify for a corresponding acreage percentage of the permits that are allocated for that unit. Statewide we had 15 applications and this is one of the changes. We had an oversight that was picked up right after the RAC packet was sent out. It was 14 and we had an extra one. One of the landowner associations qualifies for a permit every 3 years. That is why it was 14 and is going to 15.

See Handout

Robert Byrnes- In the packet there was a rule change but that won't be included in the presentation and will come back the next cycle.

Scott McFarlane- That is correct. We had a proposed rule change for the landowner permit rule but was not made clear in the agenda and is not a time sensitive item. We are proposing to take that back through the December board and RAC schedules.

### **Motion**

**Motion:** Bryce Thurgood- Recommend the Wildlife Board approve Landowner Permit Numbers for 2014 as presented with the Division's recommendations.

**Second:** John Wall

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

### **Item 8. Utah Hunter Mentoring Program (New Rule)**

Greg Hansen, Assistant Attorney General

See Handout

## RAC Questions

Jim Gaskill- Why does the minor have to be a Utah resident?

Greg Hansen- We want to encourage Utah families to get out into the field. We want to limit this program initially to folks within Utah.

Jim Gaskill- What is the limit? Is there a limit to the amount of these permits available?

Greg Hansen- Any big game permit, the way we have written the rule can be shared right now.

Jim Gaskill- So, if I have a grandson who lives in Poland and he wants to come. Why not let him do that. It is not like he is taking a permit or opportunity from someone else. If you want to recruit, lets recruit from everywhere. Why exclude anyone?

Greg Hansen- That is a good point. That is something we should definitely consider. I believe the original intent was an effort to try and recruit folks in Utah that will eventually become adults in Utah into hunting. The idea of recruiting others into the sport as well is a good point.

Jim Gaskill-What is the DWR going to do if they both shoot and they both hit a different animal?

Scott Davis- If you are with your grandson from Poland, we are going to arrest you.

Jim Gaskill- Thank you Scott.

John Blazzard- I noticed you said that the youth hunt to be 17 years old when the hunt happened. Is that going to change based on the July 1st 17 for youth fee?

Greg Hansen- The definition is under 17 while hunting and the youth definition covered two areas. We are not talking about a youth permit here. It is a big game permit being shared with a child. The way the code section is written is under 17 years of age. We wanted to open it to as many youth children as possible. But the definitions are close but not exactly the same. This definition will stay as is.

John Blazzard- If they are 17 on the first of July and their birthday is the first of October, they are out of luck because they will be 18.

Greg Hansen- Under this program if they are 17 on the day they are hunting, they qualify.

Bruce Sillitoe- If the adult gets the permit, that adult then can mentor the child that did not get a permit?

Greg Hansen- Yes.

Bruce Sillitoe- And vice versa?

Greg Hansen- No.

Russ Lawrence- What kind of participation rates do you see forecast in the next 2-3 years?

Greg Hansen- Other states that have initiated programs like this have seen really high rates of participation. I do not know exact numbers but in talking with the licensing folks, there is a significant amount of transfers that go on. We are somewhat different where this is a sharing of a permit but the same process applies.

Russ Lawrence- Was that because the teenager did not get a permit or was not successful in a drawing?

Greg Hansen- That could be part of it. The incentive here is there are some high quality hunts that it takes a few years of applications before a possibility of pulling a permit for that. Being able to take a child out on one of those hunts where they will see those animals and have an opportunity to be successful, that will be the incentive for this program.

Joel Ferry- I have hunted with 10 or 11 year olds, why restrict to 12 year old. Why not just say if you have a hunter safety and are under 17?

Greg Hansen- Part of that has to do with a safety aspect.

Joel Ferry- Well, they have hunter safety and could have a permit.

Greg Hansen- Part of that has to do with restrictions for CWMU's which has an age restriction. Maybe that is something we need to look at. We have thought long and hard on that bottom age level. Maybe I can ask around and get a more specific answer but that is the limit proposed right now.

Jim Gaskill- Well, you have to be 12 to hunt big game. I am pretty sure of that.

Greg Hansen- That is the restriction. I am kind of new to this. That would make sense.

Bryce Thurgood- It is 12 to hunt big game but why can't a 12 year old put in for limited entry unit or the sportsman tags or anything like that but yet you are going to let them do this.

Jon Leonard- When we were proposing those legislation that would renew age restriction, your organization is the one that opposed that and put that restriction on limited entry because the people who are holding a lot of points thought it was unfair to bring in a new influx of people into the draw. That is why the language is put in there.

Robert Byrnes- Is it in code?

Torrey Christopherson- Have to be 12 to hunt big game. (comment inaudible)

Bryce Thurgood - I see the same issue coming up here. My wife does not hunt but I am going to put her in because my 12 year old son is going to love this idea. Why can't we change it so it is 12?

Greg Hansen - 12 meaning?

Robert Byrnes- Bryce you are talking about the guidebook, not this program.

Bryce Thurgood- It conflicts though.

Robert Byrnes- And you are going to have to change the code. You are going to have to get the legislature change the code.

Bryce Thurgood - The legislature will let them hunt this way but they won't let them put in normally.

Jim Gaskill- That is the point.

Jon Leonard - Maybe you could have a tag that was drawn through the process?

Robert Byrnes- Maybe Greg needs to check and see if there is a conflict there?

Greg Hansen- Maybe one thing that would ease your concern is that the individual that pulls the permit has to act as the mentor in the field if they are sharing the permit with the child or grandchild. Uninterested parties that would not be out in the field hunting, it is still going to be one application and one permit.

Robert Byrnes- There seems to be a conflict where you allow someone to hunt even though it is on another person's permit when, by code, they cannot apply for that permit individually.

Greg Hansen- We are not transferring the permit, we are just sharing with the permit holder.

Robert Byrnes- It is still gray.

Jim Gaskill- His wife may be disinterested but she might walk along with him anyways.

Bryce Thurgood- She will be interested I promise you. She will get peer pressure from the rest of the family to be interested.

Jim Gaskill- As long as she is walking along, she does not have to carry a gun, she can but does not have to.

Greg Hansen- That is definitely something we will look into.

Paul Cowley- As we read the rule, I point back to Jim's earlier comment as far as out of state grandkids. We say a hunting mentor means a resident or non-resident individual possessing a valid permit? If a parent brings a kid from out of state here, that kid cant share the permit with him?

Greg Hansen- No, not as written.

Jon Leonard- Having used or tried to use dedicated hunters in the past on projects, they have to undergo background checks. Are the mentors going to have to comply with that too and can you do that in 10 days?

Greg Hansen- The one category where that would be most applicable is when you are taking the child out that qualifies because they have a life threatening medical condition. That is the written certification we are describing would have to come from the child's parent authorizing them to go out in the field with the mentor that was selected. The parent has to cover their bases.

Robert Byrnes- You have a definition of the mentor and qualifying minor. At a distance, they can communicate by voice or hand signals.

Greg Hansen- Yes.

Robert Byrnes- That is different than it is in the guidebook.

Greg Hansen- That language came from the code section that described when, in that age class, when you can hunt big game but need parent participation to go out in the field. That is the same language that is found in that section.

Robert Byrnes- Farther down you say the hunting mentor and qualifying minor otherwise comply with all laws, rules, regulations governing the taking of big game as authorized by the permit.

Greg Hansen- Yes.

Robert Byrnes- You have two different definitions.

Greg Hansen- The more specific section in the rule would govern the distance between the mentor and the minor. The general section would apply to other provisions like tagging the animal and waste.

## **Public Comment**

Nick Madsen- Have mentored college students in the past and the problem I have is that they have to sit there while I enjoy all the fun. Hoping we could extend this program to a one time deal so if I take a friend out who

has never applied for any hunting permit and I could put him on a permit with me for that day, just one time, I would like that opportunity to take him out one time if he has his hunters education.

Greg Hansen- We understand where you are coming from. Unfortunately, the classifications on this rule are in code. We are limited what we are allowed to do under that code section. That is something we have looked at.

Nick Madsen- I was thinking about Antelope Island and the excess of mule deer. In Alabama, they had an excess of whitetail. They offered mentoring youth hunts where the mentors were allowed to take these youth into these areas and harvest does. They talked about being socially unacceptable, in other areas it has proved very successful. Would they entertain an idea of mentoring youth and taking them to Antelope Island or mentoring a program taking them to Grouse Creek? Would they allow the youth, under the supervision of DWR, to harvest?

Greg Hansen- If it was a big game tag that was issued to a mentor, that is a tag to be shared under this permit. This rule does not contemplate creating any new types of permits. Maybe that is something we can look at in the future but does not fall under this rule.

David Holguard- I read through the information on the mentoring and my question is related to lifetime license holders and nephews. It looked to me like it is parent, grandparent only is that correct?

Greg Hansen- It is.

David Holguard- There are a lot of ways to mentor. This year neither of my nephews drew deer tags. My brothers and I bought lifetime licenses. Why not an uncle mentor

Greg Hansen- Unfortunately, we are limited by the Utah legislature defining our authority in allowing the sharing of these permits. In code, it only allows sharing under certain situations.

David Holguard- So I should write my elected officials?

Greg Hansen- That would be a great way to go about things.

## **RAC Comment**

Robert Byrnes- Anywhere you can, I would like to see the definitions the same. The definition of a youth and communication between the mentor and the child. We understand code is out of our hands. Anywhere you can make those the same, that is almost always our attempt. You can see we have talked about that tonight. You are throwing a different one in. If you can change that, you want to try and be the same because it simplifies things. People can be very confused. I am not going to draw the legal line that you are so I see some wiggle room and I will take the part that suits me. You have obviously seen that in some cases already. It will be good for some people to get out and do that.

Jim Gaskill- Is that part of the code, or is that something you drew within the guidelines of the code?

Greg Hansen- I don't believe they specify in code but I would have to look specifically at the bill to make sure. I believe the distinction between resident and non-resident that the DWR came up with independently. Before I speak concrete, let me check the code first.

Jim Gaskill- I just want to know before I make a motion.

John Cavitt- Jim could make the motion anyways and if it is in the code that way then obviously we will not be able to.

Jim Gaskill- Just another wasted motion right?

Greg Hansen- It is in code. It says resident minor.

Jim Gaskill- The code says resident minor.

Greg Hansen- Yes. Allow resident minor under 18 years old to use the resident or non-resident hunting permit of another person.

Russ Lawrence- If he had these grandkids coming from out of state or out of the country, they might be coming as adults later and spending big money for tags later on. Anybody who has family in Utah would maybe be enticed to come.

Jim Gaskill- I won't put that in the motion but would ask that you would think about going to the legislature and requesting a change.

Bryce Thurgood- I would love to see some clarification. If you are going to allow a 12 year old to hunt big game, it is stupid to not let them put in for it and try to hunt it.

Jon Leonard- Our original bill is to take age restrictions off both big game and upland game and allow them to compete for limited entry tags. I like this program because some may never draw a limited entry tag.

Bryce Thurgood- That is why I say let the 12 year olds start putting in. Their chances of drawing are slim to none.

Jim Gaskill- I really like this program.

### **Motion**

**Motion:** Jim Gaskill- Recommend the Wildlife Board approve the Utah Hunter Mentoring program as presented.

**Second:** Paul Cowley

### **Discussion on the motion**

Jim Gaskill- Only as presented because I am restricted by code.

Robert Byrnes- It is very possible that my comments are also restricted by code because you heard him read the code that said 18 or younger.

Russ Lawrence- (inaudible)

Robert Byrnes- Those could be in code also. Greg will look and see if he can simplify things.

Greg Hansen- I can look to make sure our definitions are consistent across different programs.

### **Motion Passes- Unanimous**

**Motion:** Paul Cowley- The Northern Regional Advisory Council requests the Wildlife Board encourage the DWR to ask the Legislature to amend the applicable code to include nieces and nephews as qualifying minors, remove the residency requirement and remove language inconsistent with DWR rule age definitions.

**Second:** Craig VanTassell

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

### **Item 9. Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments**

Bryan Christensen, Dedicated Hunter Program Coordinator

See Handout

### **Public Questions**

David Hougaard- I thought I read in the materials that came out something about this would alleviate the need or the opportunity to pay for hours after the end of the 3rd year. I did not see that in the summary here. How does that work? Can you do your hours after you are through hunting rather than pay? For the people that pay instead of doing hours, how is that cost benefit derived?

Bryan Christensen- Are you talking about paying after getting permits or after they are done with their 3 years?

David Hougaard- After your 3 years have expired. Currently you have to pay if you have not done all your hours. I thought I read that something was changing with this.

Bryan Christensen- Yes, and that is part of what is in the simplification section we went through. The scenario would be somebody that maybe go their first and second permit but didn't get their hours for their third permit or something like that. The three years ends and the COR expires, they are out of the program but still owe hours. You are correct that right now the rule says you have to pay off the hours at \$20 dollars per hour. Some might owe 32 hours and now all the sudden they owe us a bunch of money. This rule change that we are proposing makes it so that person can choose whether they want to pay off some or all of those or they can jump on some projects after their COR expired and complete their obligations rather than having to pay them off. Regarding your second question, the rule states that a resident can purchase 24 of the 32 hours. We derive the amount which is right now set at \$20 dollars per hour. That funding, if we get donations or hours paid off directly at 20 dollars per hour, that money goes into a general fund the division can use and appropriate to its needs.

Robert Byrnes- And a non-resident can buy all their hours?

Bryan Christensen- Correct.

## RAC Questions

Jim Gaskill- What happens if they don't pay or do service? What is the time limit ultimately?

Bryan Christensen- If they don't pay off their requirement or complete requirements is the computer system that allows you to apply for drawings says you cannot apply until you are done. It will stop you from the front.

Jim Gaskill- But you can still buy a hunting license?

Bryan Christensen- Yes, it is a different sell system than that. You are not eligible to buy a deer permit online but they are working on tying those together to stop it. It will stop all applications for drawings. Normally, folks will figure out they forgot to pay off. There is a pretty good stop feature.

Jim Gaskill- How about non-residents who don't. They got their big horn sheep and that is all they cared about. They are not ever going to apply again?

Bryan Christensen- There is a scenario where a non-resident could join the program and not complete the obligations and essentially just end hunting in Utah because they would still owe something. That kind of thing is so rare that I don't see it happening very much.

Jim Gaskill- We are going to extend if they can do their hours afterwards, how long is the extension?

Bryan Christensen- Indefinitely. We would rather have folks on projects than dishing out payment for the hours.

Jim Gaskill- So, would it be the same thing if we owed money or hours, you could not apply?

Bryan Christensen- Yes, you will be on an administrative hold.

Russ Lawrence- How many dedicated hunters are there?

Bryan Christensen- 5258 plus or minus half a dozen that may have surrendered. We are about 40 short of what we were last year.

Robert Byrnes- Our cap is 10,000 correct?

Bryan Christensen- Not any more, it used to be 10,000 but now our cap is based on 15% of the overall unit quota that is designated that year. If we filled every single possible spot and had a base of 86,000 permits for general season, we would have about 12,900 give or take a few.

John Blazzard- My understanding was that if you didn't have your hours done, you did not get a permit?

Bryan Christensen- That's right.

John Blazzard- So, I do not understand how people got their permits and still owe hours.

Bryan Christensen- They wouldn't. How the rule is right now, you have to complete 8 hours before we will even print the permit.

John Blazzard- Even in successive years, you had to get your hours in before your permit would be mailed right?

Bryan Christensen- Right, so your second year is the same thing. Third year is also the same thing.

John Blazzard- How did these guys get 2 1/2 years behind?

Bryan Christensen- They are not getting their permits. They are signing up for the program and maybe do the first year and life gets busy and they don't do the other 16 hours over the next 2 years. They still owe those hours.

John Blazzard- Even though he has already got one permit, he is not going to get any more until he does his hours?

Bryan Christensen- Yes.

Jim Gaskill- What is the average odds of not getting a dedicated hunter permit if you apply?

Bryan Christensen- I would have to answer that in 30 different ways because there are that many units.

Jim Gaskill- There are some seriously oversubscribed?

Bryan Christensen- There are none oversubscribed now. We did have one unit last year that was because we had to guarantee life timers and existing dedicated hunters where they were going to go. This year, we did not have any oversubscribed. In fact, we were able to offer permits in each unit. We will have just over 1,000 people that will finish their third year program this year so it will open 1,000 new spots which are distributed throughout the units. Next year, 1,700 or more will come out and the year after that 2,400 will come out.

Jim Gaskill- But you have a really good chance?

Bryan Christensen- Yes, as frequent as drawing a general deer tag would be.

**Motion:** G. Lynn Nelson- Recommend the Wildlife Board approve the Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments as presented.

**Second:** Jim Gaskill

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

Jim Gaskill- Were those young people from your class John?

John Cavitt- They were.

Bryce Thurgood- A motion was made to approach the legislature about the change in those but I would like to make a motion real quick that we approach it for the 12 year olds put in for the limited entry and OIAL so it is all the same.

### **Motion**

**Motion:** Bryce Thurgood- The Northern Regional Advisory Council requests the Wildlife Board encourage the DWR to ask the Legislature to amend the applicable code to remove the application restrictions for youth 12 years of age or older to apply for Big Game Permits.

**Second:** Russ Lawrence

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

### **Meeting Adjournment**

**Motion: Move we adjourn.**

**Motion Passes:** Acclamation by RAC Chair

**Meeting Ends: 9:32 p.m.**